



**Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585**

May 05, 2017

RECORDS OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

**Houlton Water Company
Docket No. PP-435**

PROPOSED ACTION: On January 13, 2017, Houlton Water Company (Houlton), a municipal electric water and sewer utility organized under the existing laws of the State of Maine and owned by the town of Houlton, applied to the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit (PP) to route a new 38kV electric distribution/transmission line from Canada across the US/Canada border and along an existing Houlton distribution line on Military Street (Route 2) in Houlton.

Houlton proposes to construct and operate the U.S. portion of the Houlton/New Brunswick Power Interconnection (the project). The project consists of the installation of a 1.5 mile long 34.5 kV transmission line from the U.S./Canadian border to the existing substation on Military Street (Route 2) in Houlton. The proposed transmission line would utilize the same route as an existing distribution line currently owned and maintained by Houlton. Existing utility poles will either be replaced or rebuilt to support the proposed transmission line. No new lands or rights of way will need to be acquired for the new transmission line. DOE's proposed action is to issue a Presidential Permit if DOE determines that such action is consistent with the public interest.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPLIED: The project described above fits within the following Categorical Exclusion (CX) categories listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 Subpart D:

B4.6: Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities within a previously disturbed or developed facility area. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, load shaping projects (such as the installation and use of flywheels and battery arrays), changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms.

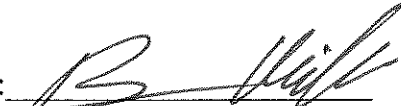
B4.11: Construction of electric power substations (including switching stations and support facilities) with power delivery of 230 kV or below, or modification (other than voltage increases) of existing substations and support facilities, that could involve the construction of electric powerlines approximately 10 miles in length or less, or relocation of existing electric powerlines approximately 20 miles in length or less, but not the integration of major new generation resources into a main transmission system.

B4.12: Construction of electric powerlines approximately 10 miles in length or less that are not for the integration of major new generation resources into a main transmission system.

Additionally, per the requirements of 10 CFR Subpart D, DOE has determined that the project described above does not have a significant individual or cumulative effect on the human environment, and that authorizing the proposed action will not (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health including DOE and/or Executive orders; (2) require siting of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants; or (4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

DETERMINATION: Based on my review of the above information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Signature: _____


Brian Mills
NEPA Compliance Officer
Office of Electricity Delivery
and Energy Reliability

Date: _____

