

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Proposed Action: Routine Activities

Location: Western Area Power Administration Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region

Description of the Proposed Actions: The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region (UGP) routinely conducts activities that are part of the day-to-day operations of its facilities and take place at all locations within its six-state service area. These actions do not vary from year to year, are considered as individual actions, and are not part of larger or more extensive actions or programs. This categorical exclusion (CX) determination covers only those actions where there is clearly not a need to do an environmental review to determine if the actions adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. Given the routine nature of the actions covered by this determination it will require annual reissuance, but will remain in effect until WAPA determines that revisions are necessary. WAPA will, however, periodically review this determination and the actions taken under it, to ensure that environmental concerns are not overlooked.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b): To find that a proposal is categorically excluded, WAPA shall determine the following:

- 1) The proposed action fits within classes of actions that are listed in Appendix A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the activities will not:
 - a. Threaten a violation of applicable, statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders;
 - b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions;
 - c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or
 - d. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to: (i) Property (e.g. sites, buildings, structures, objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by Federal, state, or local governments or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; (ii) Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and floodplains; (iii) Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, Federal and state wildlife refuges, and marine sanctuaries; (iv) Prime agriculture lands; (v) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and

- other water sources that are vital in a region); and (vi) Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests.
- 2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;
- 3) The proposal is not "connected" (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)) to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

This CX determination covers the following categories of actions inclusively:

- Activities applicable to general agency actions as defined by **Appendix A** of Subpart D, DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures.
- **B1.3** Routine maintenance/custodial services for buildings, structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures, vehicles, and equipment
- **B1.4** Installation/modification of air conditioning systems for existing equipment
- **B1.6** Installation/modification of retention tanks, small basins to control runoff, spills
- **B1.7** Acquisition, installation, operation, modification, and removal of electricity transmission control and monitoring devices for grid demand and response, communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment
- **B1.9** Placement of airway safety markings/painting (not lighting) of existing lines, antennas
- **B1.11** Fencing
- **B1.16** Removal of asbestos from buildings
- **B1.17** Removal of polychlorinated biphenyl-containing items from buildings, other aboveground locations
- **B1.20** Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat
- **B1.22** Relocation of buildings
- **B1.23** Demolition/disposal of buildings
- **B1.24** Property transfers
- **B1.25** Real property transfers for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management
- **B1.30** Transfer actions
- **B1.33** Stormwater runoff control
- **B1.34** Lead-based pain containment, removal, and disposal
- **B2.2** Installation of/improvements to building instrumentation (remote controls, emergency warning systems, monitors)
- **B2.3** Installation of equipment for personnel safety and health
- **B2.5** Safety and environmental improvements of a facility, replacement/upgrade of facility components
- **B3.2** Aviation activities for survey, monitoring, or security purposes
- **B4.1** Contracts/marketing plans/policies for excess electric power
- **B4.2** Export of electric energy

- B4.3 Electric power marketing rates changes, within normal operating limits
- B4.4 Power marketing services within normal operating limits
- B4.6 Additions/modifications to electric power transmission facilities within previously developed area
- B4.8 New electricity transmission agreements for transfer of power
- B4.10 Deactivation, dismantling, and removal of electric powerlines and substations
- B5.1 Actions to conserve electricity
- B5.6 Oil spill cleanup operations
- B6.1 Small-scale, short-term cleanup actions under RCRA or other authorities, less than 10 million dollars in cost.

Number and Title of the Categorical Exclusion Applied: The categories of actions described above are routine activities specifically listed in the DOE NEPA Regulations 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, appendices A1-15 and appendix B.

Determination: Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in possession 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 classes of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.



Matt Marsh
NEPA Compliance Officer

1-26-18

Date