

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration

Routine Maintenance Activities at Existing Facilities Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Utah, and New Mexico

Project No. 2018-002

Expiration Date: February 28, 2024

- A. **Brief Description of Proposal:** The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Rocky Mountain Region (RMR), conducts routine maintenance activities at existing facilities in five states (Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming). These facilities include the Brush Field Office, Casper Service Center, Cheyenne Service Center, Cody Service Center, Craig Field Office, Gering Field Office, Hayden Field Office, Loveland Area Power and Marketing Operations Center, Montrose Power Operations Center, Salida Field Office, Shiprock Field Office, Vernal Field Office, and Virginia Smith Converter Station. These facilities are surrounded by an existing chain link fence and the entire area within this fenced perimeter has been previously disturbed.

The following activities occurring **within the existing fenced perimeter of the facilities listed above** are covered by this Categorical Exclusion (CX):

- (1) Servicing and testing of equipment;
- (2) Maintenance or installation of above ground propane tanks;
- (3) Repair and replacement of wiring;
- (4) Maintenance, installation, or removal of a solar power array panel and controller from structures;
- (5) Cleanup of spills that don't reach reportable quantities, as defined by RMR's Spill Response Plan (SRP);
- (6) Maintenance and repair of buildings and structures less than 45 years old;
- (7) Repair or remove existing fences and gates by hand;
- (8) Pest management within buildings;
- (9) Vegetation management, including herbicide application;
- (10) Grounds maintenance including snowplowing, mowing, and servicing septic tanks;
- (11) Installation and maintenance of portable sanitary facilities;
- (12) Placing fill or rocks around existing culverts, provided the material is brought in from a commercial source and ground disturbance is not necessary;
- (13) Testing for asbestos-containing materials (ACMs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and lead-based paint;
- (14) Repair or replacement of existing asphalt, concrete, and gravel surfaces;
- (15) Any ground disturbing activity, not to exceed current depth of disturbance; and
- (16) Maintenance of existing spill containment, control, and countermeasure (SPCC) structures.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration

**Routine Maintenance Activities at Existing Facilities
Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Utah, and New Mexico
Project No. 2018-002
Expiration Date: February 28, 2024**

B. Number and Title of the Categorical Exclusion Being Applied: (See text in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| B1.3. Routine Maintenance | B2.2. Building and Equipment |
| B1.4. Air Conditioning Systems for Existing Equipment | Instrumentation |
| B1.7. Electronic Equipment | B2.3. Personnel Safety and Health Equipment |
| B1.11. Fencing | B2.5. Facility Safety and Environmental Improvements |
| B1.15. Support Buildings | B4.6. Additions and Modifications to Transmission Facilities |
| B1.27. Disconnection of Utilities | B4.7. Fiber Optic Cable |
| B1.28. Placing a Facility in an Environmentally Safe Condition | B5.1. Actions to Conserve Energy or Water |
| B1.31. Installation or Relocation of Machinery and Equipment | B5.6. Oil Spill Cleanup |
| B1.33. Stormwater Runoff Control | B5.23. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations |
| B2.1. Workplace Enhancements | |

C. Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b): (See full text in regulation and attached checklist.)

1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D.

For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements. To fit within a class, the proposal must not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders;
- 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 or facilities;
- 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;

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration

Routine Maintenance Activities at Existing Facilities Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Utah, and New Mexico

Project No. 2018-002

Expiration Date: February 28, 2024

- Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. An environmentally sensitive resource is typically a resource that has been identified as needing protection through Executive Order, statute, or regulation by Federal, State, or local government, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. An action may be categorically excluded if, although sensitive resources are present, the action would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on those resources (such as construction of a building with its foundation well above a sole-source aquifer or upland surface soil removal on a site that has wetlands). Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to, those listed in paragraph B. (4) (see Attachment A).
- 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” to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

D. Special Stipulations Pertaining to the Proposal:

- 1) **Activities not listed in Section A, Items 1 through 16, or activities that cannot be implemented while following all Special Stipulations in Section D, are not authorized to be completed under this CX. In these instances, the project proponent must contact RMR’s Environment Department to initiate the appropriate environmental review.**
- 2) **This CX is valid until February 28, 2024**, or until an updated version is executed by RMR’s Environment Department, whichever comes first.
- 3) If any cultural resources are inadvertently discovered during implementation of the proposed action, work within 100-feet of the discovery area must halt immediately, RMR’s Archaeologist must be contacted immediately. Work in the area of discovery must not resume until notification to proceed is provided by RMR’s Archaeologist.
- 4) If any possible human remains are inadvertently discovered during implementation of the proposed action, work within 100-feet of the discovery area must halt immediately and RMR’s Archaeologist must be notified immediately by telephone (no later than 24 hours from the time of discovery). A reasonable effort must be made to protect the remains from looting and/or further damage. Work in the area of discovery must not resume until notification to proceed is provided by RMR’s Archaeologist.
- 5) U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services may be contacted at 866-487-3297 for assistance with nuisance wildlife.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration

**Routine Maintenance Activities at Existing Facilities
Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Utah, and New Mexico**

Project No. 2018-002

Expiration Date: February 28, 2024

- 6) Pesticide and herbicide applicators must meet all state licensing requirements and must follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines. Applicators must use only EPA-registered pesticides and herbicides that are approved for the intended use and location, and must follow all applicable label directions.
- 7) For facilities covered by a current Spill Prevention, Control, Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan, RMR's Environment Department must be notified prior to installation, replacement, removal, or storage of any oil-containing equipment to ensure activities are in compliance with the requirements of the SPCC plan.
- 8) Activities involving the use of fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, or other petroleum products must comply with RMR's SRP.
- 9) Lead-based paint, asbestos, PCBs, and other environmentally regulated materials requirements must be met.

E. Determination: Based on my review of information provided to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is categorically excluded from requirements for an EA or an EIS.

Signature and Date:

Brian Little
NEPA Compliance Officer
Rocky Mountain Region
Western Area Power Administration

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration

**Routine Maintenance Activities at Existing Facilities
Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Utah, and New Mexico**

Project No. 2018-002

Expiration Date: February 28, 2024

ATTACHMENT A

**Conditions That Are Integral Elements of the Classes
of Actions in Appendix B That Apply to This Proposal**

Checklist for Categorical Exclusion Determination, revised Nov. 2011

Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)	Disagree	Agree	Unknown
(b)(1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix B to subpart D.		X	
(b)(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; and unresolved conflicts concerning alternate uses of available resources.		X	
(b)(3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Segmentation can occur when a proposal is broken down into small parts in order to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. The scope of a proposal must include the consideration of connected and cumulative actions, that is, the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or § 1021.211 of this part concerning limitations on actions during EIS preparation.		X	
B. Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B.	NO	YES	Unknown
(1) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.	X		
(2) 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 or facilities.	X		
(3) 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.	X		

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration

**Routine Maintenance Activities at Existing Facilities
Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Utah, and New Mexico**

Project No. 2018-002

Expiration Date: February 28, 2024

<p>(4) Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. An environmentally sensitive resource is typically a resource that has been identified as needing protection through Executive Order, statute, or regulation by Federal, State, or local government, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. An action may be categorically excluded if, although sensitive resources are present, the action would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on those resources (such as construction of a building with its foundation well above a sole-source aquifer or upland surface soil removal on a site that has wetlands). Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to:</p>	X		
<p>(i) Property (such as sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by a Federal, State, or local government, or property determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;</p>	X		
<p>(ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat) or federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat (Endangered Species Act); state-listed or state-proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; Federally-protected marine mammals and Essential Fish Habitat (Marine Mammal Protection Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act); and otherwise federally-protected species (such as under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act);</p>	X		
<p>(iii) Floodplains and wetlands (as defined in 10 CFR 1022.4, — Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements: “Definitions,” or its successor);</p>	X		
<p>(iv) Areas having a special designation such as federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national monuments, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, State and Federal wildlife refuges, scenic areas (such as National Scenic and Historic Trails or National Scenic Areas), and marine sanctuaries;</p>	X		
<p>(v) Prime or unique farmland, or other farmland of statewide or local importance, as defined at 7 CFR</p>	X		

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration

**Routine Maintenance Activities at Existing Facilities
Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Utah, and New Mexico**

Project No. 2018-002

Expiration Date: February 28, 2024

658.2(a), — Farmland Protection Policy Act: Definitions, or its successor;			
(vi) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and	X		
(vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests; or	X		
(5) Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.	X		