

RECORDS OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

DMG Blockchain Solutions Inc.

Docket EA-482

PROPOSED ACTION: DMG Blockchain Solutions Inc. (Applicant or DMG) has applied to the United States Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Electricity for an electricity export authorization which will allow it to export electricity to Canada pursuant to Section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.¹ DMG is a British Columbia corporation with its principal place of business in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and a United States subsidiary in Sunnyvale, California. DMG states in its application that it “does not own, operate or control any electric generation assets, nor is it affiliated with an entity that owns, operates or controls such facilities in the United States.”² DMG proposes to use existing authorized international electric transmission facilities that are appropriate for open access by third parties.³

Specifically, DMG is a consumer of power whose primary business is to host servers that ensure the security of public blockchains, as well as other high performance computing applications. DMG is a power marketer seeking an export authorization to sell electric energy into Canada for a term of five years. The existing international transmission facilities to be utilized by DMG have previously been authorized by Presidential permits issued pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended, and are appropriate for open access transmission by third parties. The Presidential permits for these facilities were issued by DOE after an appropriate level of NEPA review.

CX TO BE APPLIED: The elements identified above fit within the class listed in Appendix B to Subpart D, of 10 C.F.R. Part 1021-Categorical exclusions applicable to specific agency actions. Specifically:

B4.2 Export of electric energy as provided by Section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act over existing transmission systems or using transmission systems that are themselves categorically excluded.

10 C.F.R. Part 1021, App. B to Subpart D, § B4.2.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENT: The proposed action has been determined by DOE not to have a significant effect on the human environment either individually or cumulatively. 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 Policy 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, that other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and that the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824a(e).

² See Application of DMG Blockchain Solution Inc. for Authorization to Transmit Electric Energy to Canada, at 2 (May 21, 2020).

³ See *id.* at 2-3.

Signature: 

Date: August 26, 2020

Charles P. Kosak
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Transmission Permitting and Technical Assistance
DOE Office of Electricity