



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination Form



Proposed Action Title: Categorical Exclusion for the Primary Circuit Electrical Power Line Extension from TA-36 to TA-68

Program or Field Office: Los Alamos Field Office

Location(s): Los Alamos National Laboratory Technical Areas 36 and 68, Los Alamos, NM

Proposed Action Description

The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Los Alamos Field Office (NA-LA) proposes to construct and operate an electrical power line from Technical Area (TA) -36 to TA-68 (Proposed Action). The Proposed Action requires the construction of approximately 1 mile of a 13.8 kV 2-pole distribution line from TA-36, southeast across the Fence Canyon and Water Canyon 100-year floodplains to the TA-68 Water Canyon Test Site. Ultimately, at a later date than the construction of the electrical transmission power line, a fiber optic cable would be added to the power line structures to provide reliable internet to the site.

NEPA Analysis

The proposed action as described above meets the conditions that are integral elements of 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B to Subpart D of Part 1021:

B4.7 Fiber optic cable

Adding fiber optic cables to transmission facilities or burying fiber optic cable in existing powerline or pipeline rights-of-way. Covered actions may include associated vaults and pulling and tensioning sites outside of rights-of-way in nearby previously disturbed or developed areas.

B4.12 Construction of powerlines

Construction of electric powerlines approximately 10 miles in length or less, or approximately 20 miles in length or less within previously disturbed or developed powerline or pipeline rights-of-way. This determination is made pursuant to the 42 U.S. Code § 4321 et seq., the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA [40 CFR 1500-1508], and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures [10 CFR 1021].

NEPA Compliance Officer Determination

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer as authorized under NNSA Policy 451.1 *National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Program* and DOE Policy 451.1 *National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Program*, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the class of action specified at 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B4.7 and B4.12. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances present and that the proposal has not been segmented. I approve the proposed project under 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B4.7 and B4.12.

Jane Summerson

NEPA Compliance Officer:

9/3/2020

Date Determined: