



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: WP-PO Reroute Structures 43/4 to 43/7

Program or Field Office: MMO

Location(s) (City/County/State): Wolf Point, Roosevelt County, Montana

Proposed Action Description:

WAPA is proposing to relocate the structures 43/4 to 43/7 to the south of HWY 2 in order to address a safety issue where the current structures are too close to the Highway. There are no extraordinary circumstances for this project:

- Project location is an "Area of minimal hazard (Zone X)" for floodplains. There are no wetlands or water resources in the project footprint.
- Project is located within the boundary of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation but on State-owned Highway ROW. It is not located in or near other formally classified lands (National Parks, National Monuments or Battlefields, Wild/Scenic Rivers, Wilderness Areas, recreational rivers, lake shores and trails, national wildlife refuges, or State parks). Project is not located in areas of high scenic beauty, scenic overlooks, scenic highways, wilderness areas, etc., and will have limited aesthetic impact.
- Project location is Farmland of Statewide Importance. No loss of suitable farmland will occur because potential agricultural use has already been limited as a result of the Highway ROW.
- General wildlife habitat in the Project is limited and low value due to pre-existing high humanity activity (traffic) and noise levels.
- There are no known occurrences of, and no habitat for, Northern Long-eared Bat, Piping Plover, or Whooping Crane in the vicinity of the Project. No designated critical habitat in the project area.
- WAPA received Section 106 concurrence from the Fort Peck THPO.
- Desktop qualitative review of impacts to transportation, air quality, hazardous materials, socioeconomic & community resources. No concerns identified. Project will improve human health & safety by addressing a safety concern with the proximity of the current structures to the highway.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.13 - Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (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; (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; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (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 listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This 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 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer: **John D. Russell** Digitally signed by John D. Russell
Date: 2021.08.24 12:26:01 -06'00'

Date Determined: 08/24/2021