RECORDS OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

SociVolta, Inc.
Docket EA-493

PROPOSED ACTION: SociVolta, Inc. (SociVolta or Applicant) applied to the United States Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Electricity for an electricity export authorization to export electricity to Mexico pursuant to Section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.[1] SociVolta is a Canadian company with its principal place of business in Montreal, Quebec. The Applicant represents that it "does not have any affiliates or upstream owners that possess any ownership interest or involvement in any other company that is a traditional utility or that owns, operates, or controls any electric generation, transmission or distribution facilities, nor do they have any direct involvement with the energy industry other than through the ownership of SociVolta."[2] SociVolta proposes to use existing authorized international electric transmission facilities that are appropriate for open access by third parties.[3]

SociVolta is a power marketer seeking an export authorization to sell electric energy into Mexico for a five-year period. The existing international transmission facilities to be utilized by the Applicant 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 permit for these facilities was 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 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 previously been determined by DOE to not 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, other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Signature: Steven P. Blazek Digitally signed by Steven P. Blazek Date: 2022.02.10 14:40:19 -07'00'

Date: February 10, 2022

Steven P. Blazek
NEPA Compliance Officer
Electricity Delivery Division
Office of Electricity

[1] 16 U.S.C. § 824a(e).
[2] Application of SociVolta, Inc. for Authority to Transmit Electric Energy to Mexico (Dec. 13, 2021) at 2.
[3] *See id*.