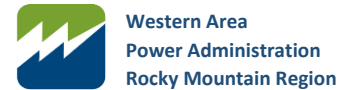


CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION



Proposed Action Title: Alcova Switchyard Emergency Mobile Transformer Installation

Location: Natrona County, Wyoming

Project Number: 2023-070

Expiration Date: December 31, 2023

A. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Rocky Mountain Region (RMR), conducted an emergency mobile transformer installation at Alcova (A) Switchyard between August 12 and September 30, 2023, in Natrona County, Wyoming. This mobile transformer installation was necessary to allow RMR to take the existing transformer offline for emergency troubleshooting and maintenance to address combustible gas buildup. The mobile transformer installation activities included installation of a new section of grounding grid, pad construction, placement of the mobile transformer unit, construction of a spill control berm, and installation of a shoo-fly consisting of two temporary wood poles and associated conductor to connect the mobile transformer with the Alcova Switchyard. Equipment used for this project included crane trucks, backhoe, bucket trucks, dump trucks, excavator, skid-steer, and utility trucks. This work occurred within and outside of the existing fenced perimeter of the A Switchyard, all within WAPA's existing right-of-way (ROW) on Bureau of Reclamation project lands. The ROW was accessed by existing access routes; no new road construction occurred.

B. STIPULATIONS PERTAINING TO PROPOSAL:

This Categorical Exclusion (CX) covers work that has already been completed. No further work is authorized under this CX. If additional work is required, RMR's Environment Department must be contacted to determine whether additional environmental review is required.

C. NUMBER AND TITLE OF THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION BEING APPLIED:

(See text in 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D.)

B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

D. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS 10 CFR 1021.410 (b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B of 10 CFR 1021.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 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 the Department of Energy (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 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (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 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 of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

- 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 improperly segmented, and 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.

E. DETERMINATION:

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning 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.

Digitally signed by James Wood
Date: 2023.10.17 11:07:32 -06'00'

Signature and Date

James Wood, Regional Environmental Manager
Rocky Mountain Region
Western Area Power Administration

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