

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY - NETL

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DESIGNATION FORM

Project No.: DE-GD0000924 Recipient Name: ALLETE, Inc/Minn Power Project Location: Duluth, MN

Sub-recipient(s) and Locations:
Solway Township, St. Louis County, MN; and Oliver County, ND

NETL Sponsoring Org.: GDO/TDC/EDS/Demonstrat&Deployment NETL Contact: Cody Panos

Brief Title of Proposed Action: Minnesota Power HVDC Terminal Expansion Capability (HTEC) Project

Brief Description of Activities:
Project design and engineering and build two voltage source converter terminal stations as modifications/upgrades to the existing power substations.

THE PROPOSED ACTION FALLS WITHIN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION(S) FROM APPENDICES A AND B TO SUBPART D OF DOE NEPA IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES (10 CFR 1021):

General Administration/Management

- A1 – Routine business actions
- A9 – Info gathering, analysis, documentation, dissemination, and training
- A11 – Technical advice and planning assistance

Facility Operations

- B1.3 – Routine maintenance and custodial services
- B1.7 – Communication system and data processing equipment acquisition, installation, operation, removal
- B1.15 – Support building or structure, non-waste storage, construction/operation

Safety and Health

- B2.1 – Modifications to enhance workplace habitability
- B2.2 – Installation/improvement of building/equipment instrumentation
- B2.3 – Installation of equipment for personnel safety and health

General Research

- B3.1 – Site characterization/environmental monitoring
- B3.6 – R&D or pilot facility construction/operation/decommissioning
- B3.7 – New infill exploratory, experimental oil/gas/geothermal well construction and/or operation
- B3.9 – Certain CCT demonstration activities, emissions unchanged
- B3.11 – Outdoor tests, experiments on materials and equipment components

Electrical Power and Transmission

- B4.4 – Power management activities (storage, load shaping, and balancing)
- B4.6 – Transmission support addition/modifications at developed facility site
- B4.11 – Construction of power substations and interconnection facilities
- B4.13 – Upgrading and rebuilding existing power lines (< 20 miles)

Conservation, Fossil, and Renewable Energy Activities

- B5.1 – Actions to conserve energy, no indoor air quality degradation
- B5.3 – Modification/abandonment of wells
- B5.5 – Short crude oil/gas/steam/geothermal/carbon dioxide pipeline const/oper within an existing right-of-way (< 20 miles) between existing facilities
- B5.13 – Experimental wells for injection of small quantities of carbon dioxide (< 500,000 tons)
- B5.15 – Small scale renewable energy research/development/pilot projects
- B5.22 – Alternative fuel vehicle fueling stations
- B5.23 – Electric vehicle charging stations

Other

- Specify category: [Yellow box]
- Specify category: [Yellow box]
- Specify category: [Yellow box]

This action (1) would not present any extraordinary circumstances such that the action might have a significant impact upon the human environment; (2) is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts; (3) is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts; and (4) is not inconsistent with 10 CFR 1021.211 - Interim Actions or 40 CFR 1506.1 - Limitations during the NEPA process.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- This Categorical Exclusion includes all tasks and phases in the Statement of Work or Statement of Project Objectives for this project.
- This Categorical Exclusion is only valid for the following tasks/phases [Yellow box]. The DOE initiator acknowledges the responsibility to obtain a NEPA determination prior to initiating any activities outside the scope of this Categorical Exclusion.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- This Categorical Exclusion includes all locations and activities for this project.
- Additional sites, sub-recipients, or activities cannot be identified at this time. The DOE initiator acknowledges the responsibility to obtain a NEPA determination prior to initiating any activities outside the scope of this Categorical Exclusion.

NOTE: ANY CHANGE(S) TO THE PROJECT SCOPE OR LOCATIONS MAY REQUIRE A NEW NEPA DETERMINATION.

DOE Initiator Signature: CODY PANOS Digitally signed by CODY PANOS Date: 2023.12.15 09:16:56 -0500

Date: 12 / 15 / 2023
month day year

NEPA Compliance Officer: JILL TRIULZI Digitally signed by JILL TRIULZI Date: 2024.01.09 11:34:28 -0500

Date: 01 / 09 / 2024
month day year

The following special condition is provided for the consideration of the Contracting Officer:

[Yellow box]