

# U.S. Department of Energy

## Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Mandatory Transmission and Distribution Planning Support Activities

Program or Field Office: Office of State and Community Energy Programs, State Energy Program

Location(s) (City/County/State): Nationwide

Proposed Action Description:

In this interim final rule, DOE is adopting new and amended regulations for the State Energy Program (SEP) to incorporate certain changes made to the DOE-administered formula grant program by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021. DOE has determined that new and amended standards would result in significant conservation of energy and are technologically feasible and economically justified.

Specifically, the standards adopted and amended by this interim final rule include new mandatory features for state energy conservation plans, where states applying for SEP grants must submit plans that consider new features established by the IIJA 2021 in addition to those already set out SEP's regulations.

DOE has determined that this rulemaking is strictly procedural and is consistent with activities identified in 10 CFR par 1021, Subpart D, Appendix A6. No extraordinary circumstances exist that require further environmental analysis, and this final rule meets the requirements for application of a categorical exclusion.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A6 - Procedural rulemakings

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: **Andrew Montano** Digitally signed by Andrew Montano  
Date: 2024.03.05 14:46:36 -07'00'

Date Determined: 3/5/2024