



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Pinal Central to ED5 Transmission Line Upgrade Project

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration - Desert Southwest Region

Location(s) (City/County/State): Pinal County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Desert Southwest Region is upgrading components of its Parker-Davis Project electrical transmission system for 300 MW of firm point-to-point transmission service requested by Pattern New Mexico Wind, LLC. WAPA owns, operates, and maintains the Electrical District No. 5 (ED5) Substation, and 115-kV transmission line segments from Electrical District No. 2 (ED2) Substation to Electrical District No. 4 (ED4) Substation and ED4 Substation to ED5 Substation.

The project will connect the Pinal Central Substation to WAPA's ED5 Substation 230-kV yard. WAPA will install a new 1272 ACSS circuit for approximately 18.7 miles on the existing ED2-ED4 and ED4-ED5 115-kV transmission line segment structures and replace overhead ground wire with optical ground wire from Casa Grande, Arizona to Eloy, Arizona.

Work within the ED5 Substation includes installing one 230-kV breaker, two 230-kV disconnect switches, one A-Frame steel pole structure, a control cable through the existing cable trench to the control house, and one control panel for meter relay and communications equipment.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.11 - Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

B4.12 - Construction of 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:

Date Determined: