



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: APS Sundance Power Plant and Transmission Service Request Project

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

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

Proposed Action Description:

Arizona Public Service Company (APS) is planning to extend the eastern collector bus at the Sundance Power Plant located near Coolidge, Arizona for the addition of two combustion turbine units to increase capacity by 90 megawatts (MW). The two new combustion natural gas turbine units (units 11 & 12) would connect with existing units, therefore no new connections between the generators and WAPA's Sundance 230-kV switchyard are required for the increased ampacity generation. The 230-kV east bus relay settings may need to be revised but there would be no physical construction within WAPA's switchyard. The existing yard fence boundaries will not be expanded. On the APS side of the fence, APS will connect Sundance Power block 6 (units 11 & 12) to the APS east 230-kV collector bus. APS will tie-in the new units to the east bus relay protection (differential protection and breaker failure protection) using existing cables.

APS submitted Transmission Service Request (TSR) 100640909 for firm point-to-point transmission service through WAPA's Open Access Same Time Information System to start January 1, 2026, and end December 31, 2030, with a point of receipt at Sundance 230-kV Substation and a point of delivery at Liberty 230-kV Substation for 90 MW. In order to accommodate TSR 100640909, WAPA will upgrade metering current transformer QW2A at WAPA's Phoenix Substation to a minimum rating of 378 MVA.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.11 - Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

B1.7 - Electronic equipment

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: **NATALIE ORTEGA**

Digitally signed by NATALIE ORTEGA
Date: 2024.08.27 07:32:04 -0700

Date Determined: **8/27/24**