



# U.S. Department of Energy

## Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program - Eastern Division (P-SMBP--ED): Rate Order No. WAPA-217

Program or Field Office: Upper Great Plains Region (UGP)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Region-wide

Proposed Action Description:

WAPA-UGP is proposing to extend existing formula rates (without any changes) for the P-SMBP--ED for the period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2030. The existing rates UGP proposes to extend are: WAUGP-ATRR, WAUGP-AS1, WAUW-AS3, WAUW-AS4, WAUW-AS5, WAUW-AS6, and WAUW-AS7. These rates under Rate Order No. WAPA-188 are set to expire on December 30, 2025. The existing formula rates are viewable online at the following locations: (1) UGP's OASIS at: <https://www.oasis.oati.com/wapa/index.html>; (2) on UGP's Rates website at: [www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/ugp/ugp-rates](http://www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/ugp/ugp-rates); and (3) the "Western Area Power Administration UGP Information" link on SPP's Member Related Postings website at: [opsportal.spp.org/OASIS/Directory/Member%20Related%20Postings](http://opsportal.spp.org/OASIS/Directory/Member%20Related%20Postings). The existing formula rates provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs, including interest expense, and repay investment within the allowable period consistent with the cost recovery criteria set forth in Department of Energy (DOE) Order RA 6120.2.

UGP's expanded participation in the SPP RTO will have impacts on the above rate methodologies. Extending the existing formula rates for five years allows UGP time to evaluate rate methodologies to conduct a major rate adjustment process to put new formula rates in place that would become effective upon UGP's expanded participation in the SPP RTO (currently planned on April 1, 2026).

- The category of actions for the proposed project does not have a significant effect, individually or in the aggregate, on the human environment. This activity is covered under UGP's 2024 Blanket CX.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.3 - Electric power marketing rate changes

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](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-10/chapter-II/subchapter-D/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: **JOHN RUSSELL** Digitally signed by JOHN RUSSELL  
Date: 2024.09.27 12:04:17 -06'00'

Date Determined: 9/27/24