RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Ault Substation Expansion and Equipment Additions, Weld County, CO

A. Proposed Action: Western proposes to expand the existing Ault Substation and add electrical equipment. The expansion would be within the existing fee-owned land.

B. Number and Title of Categorical Excluison Being Applied. B4.11: Construction of electric power substations (including switching stations and support facilities) with power deliver at 230-kV or below, or modification (other than voltage increases) of existing sutstations and support facilities....

C. Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (Refer to full text in regulation).

(1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D.

For classes of actions, listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements, i.e., to fit witin a class the proposal must not:

(1) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and Executive Orders;

(2) Require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities;

(3) Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the enviornment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or

(4) Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B. (4)) (see attached checklist).

(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmetnal effects of the proposal; and

(3) The proposal is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

D. Stipulations: None

E. Determination:

Based on my review of the information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action I have determined that the proposed action ftis within the specified clasess of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Date 12 MARCH 2010

NEPA Compliance Officer
Rocky Mountain Region
Western Area Power Administration