

RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration

Lovell-Thermopolis Access Road Repairs, Structure 57-6 to 84-2 and replacement of
Structure 61-7, Big Horn County, WY

- A. Brief Description of Proposed Action:** The Western Area Power Administration (Western) is proposes to conduct routine road repair work on existing roads between structures 57-6 to 84-2 on the Lovell-Thermopolis 115-kV transmission line located in Big Horn County, Wyoming.

Structure 61-7 is locate on US Bureau of Land Management land in the NW ¼ of Section 10, T. 52 N., R. 94 W., of the 6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming. The replacement structure would be placed within 10 feet of the existing structure. Work is scheduled for fall 2011.

- B. Number and Title of the Categorical Exclusion Being Applied:** (See text in 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D.)

B1.3 Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structure, rights-of-way, infrastructures (e.g., pathways, roads, and railroads), vehicles and equipment, and localized vegetation and pest control, during which operations may be suspended and resumed. Custodial services are activities to preserve facility appearance, working conditions, and sanitation, such a cleaning, window washing, lawn mowing, trash collection, painting, and snow removal. Routine maintenance activities, corrective (that is, repair), preventative, and predictive, are required to maintain and preserve buildings, structures, infrastructures, and equipment in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designated purpose. Routine maintenance may result in replacement to the extent that replacement is in kind and is not a substantial upgrade or improvement. In kind replacement includes installation of new components to replace outmoded components if the replacement does not result in a significant change in the expected useful lie, design capacity, or function of the facility. Routine maintenance does not include replacement of a major component that significantly extends the originally intended useful life of a facility (for example, it does not include the replacement of a reactor vessel near the end of its useful life). Routine maintenance activities include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Repair of facility equipment, such as lathes, mills, pumps, and presses;
- (b) Door and window repair or replacement;
- (c) Wall, ceiling, or floor repair;
- (d) Reroofing;
- (e) Plumbing electrical utility, and telephone service repair;
- (f) Routine replacement of high-efficiency particulate air filters;
- (g) Inspection and/or treatment of currently installed utility poles;
- (h) Repair of road embankments;
- (i) Repair or replacement of fire protection sprinkler systems;
- (j) Road and parking area resurfacing, including construction of temporary access to facilitate resurfacing;

- (k) Erosion control and soil stabilization measures (such as reseeding and revegetation);
- (l) Surveillance and maintenance of surplus facilities in accordance with DOE Order 5820.2, "Radioactive Waste Management";
- (m) Repair and maintenance of transmission facilities, including replacement of conductors of the same nominal voltage, poles, circuit breakers, transformers, capacitors, crossarms, insulators, and downed transmission lines, in accordance, with 40 CFR part 761 (Polychlorinated Biphenyls Manufacturing, Processing, Distribution in Commerce, and Use Prohibitions);
- (n) Routine testing and calibration of facility components, subsystems, or portable equipment (including but not limited to, control valves, in-core monitoring devices, transformers, capacitors, monitoring wells, lysimeters, weather stations, and flumes);
- (o) Routine decontamination of surfaces of equipment, rooms, hot cells, or other interior surfaces of buildings (by such activities as wiping with rags, using strippable latex, and minor vacuuming), including removal of contaminated intact equipment and other materials (other than spent nuclear fuel or special nuclear material in nuclear reactors).

B4.6. Additions or modifications to electrical power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including, but not limited to switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, changing insulators and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers and crossarms.

C. Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation and attached checklist.)

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 within a class, the proposal must not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders;
- Require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recover, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities;
- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or
- Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B. (4).*

2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance

of the environmental 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. Special Stipulations Pertaining to the Proposal:

Stay in existing road bed when conducting road repairs. A Cultural Resources monitor shall be present during work activities along the transmission line segment from structure 68-1 to 200 feet north of structure 68-2.

If any cultural materials are discovered during construction, work in the area shall halt immediately, Western and the Wyoming SHPO staff shall be contacted, and the material be evaluated by an archaeologist or historian meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (48 FR 22716, Sept. 1983).

If the scope of work for this project changes, Maintenance Division must contact Western's Rocky Mountain Region's Environmental Division for additional environmental review.

If work is not completed within 3 years of the date of this signed document, Maintenance Division must contact Western's Rocky Mountain Region's Environmental Division for additional environmental review.

- E. Determination: Based on my review of information provided to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, I determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is categorically excluded from the requirements for an EI or an EIS.**

 _____ Date: 9/8/11
Signature

Eugene Iley, Jr.
NEPA Compliance Officer
Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region
Western Area Power Administration

[*Note: This approval applies only to the project/action described in the documents provided by Western Area Power Administration. These project descriptions provide the basis for review of potential impacts on other environmental resources. This approval may not extend to a project/action that differs from the one described.]

APPENDIX A

Conditions That Are Integral Elements of the Classes of Action in Appendix B That Apply to This Proposal

Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)	Disagree	Agree	Unknown
1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix A or B to subpart D.		x	
2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effect of the proposal, (e.g. scientific controversy about environmental effects; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; unresolved conflicts concerning alternate uses of available resources (see NEPA 102(2)(E))		x	
3) The proposal is not connected (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or § 1021.211.		x	
Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B	NO	YES	UNKNOWN
1) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders ¹ .	x		
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.	x		
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 intermitted releases; or	x		
4) Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by Federal, state, or local governments or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places 	x		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat), federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat, or state-listed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act and Floodplains; 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries; 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime agricultural lands; 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and 	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests. 			

¹Applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders (in addition to those listed above)

Clean Air Act

Complies with U.S. DOE Clean Air Act Conformity Requirements

Department of Energy Floodplain and Wetland Regulations (10 CFR 1022)

Clean Water Act

- Complies with Section 404 requirements
- Complies with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permitting requirements

Complies with Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (February 11, 1994, with Presidential Memorandum)

Complies with Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds. (January 10, 2001)