ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW for CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration

Transformer Replacement and Foundation Work at Flaming Gorge Substation, Daggett County, Utah

A. Brief Description of Proposal:
Western Area Power Administration (Western) will replace and modify the foundations of two failed transformers at the Flaming Gorge Substation. The Flaming Gorge Substation is located at 109° 25' 32" W., 40° 54' 46" N., Section 15, T2N, R22E, in Daggett County, Utah. It is approximately 36 miles north of Vernal, Utah, and adjacent to the Flaming Gorge Dam, Flaming Gorge Reservoir, and Green River. The substation is a 4-acre graveled yard surrounded by a chain-link perimeter fence. An asphalt roadway provides access to the substation. An oil containment system installed at the substation ensures spill prevention at the site.

Two transformers at the substation, the KW2A and KX2A 5MVA transformers, have failed and a temporary transformer is currently being used at the substation. Western will replace the failed transformers with new 5MVA transformers. The transformer foundations are concrete transformer pads. Prior to installing the new transformers, one transformer pad will be modified and one will be replaced. For the replacement of the KW2A transformer, the current transformer slab will be demolished, removed, and replaced. Embed plates will be added to the newly constructed transformer pad prior to the installation of the new KW2A. For the replacement of the KX2A transformer, embed plates will be added to the transformer's existing slab and then the KX2A will be installed. The embed plates are steel plates. To secure the transformers to their slabs, the transformers will be welded to the embed plates.

All work and storage will be done within the substation's fenced gravel yard and without damaging the substation's existing oil containment system. Erosion control best management practices will be implemented to minimize project-related erosion and the transport of sediments from the work area. Until they can be installed, the new transformers will be stored on temporary wooden cribbings. Draining failed transformers and using plastic containment vessels at the failed and temporary transformers, ensures that no oil spills or contamination will result from the project. The substation SPCC plan will be modified to reflect the changes in equipment. The failed transformers and their oil will be recycled, per regulation and Western's contractual procedures.

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

B4.6 Additions or modifications to electric 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 listed in Appendix B to Subpart D.

For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements. 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)).[1]

2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
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:

If the scope of work of this project changes, Western's Environmental Division must be contacted for additional environmental review.

This Categorical Exclusion is valid for 3 years after the signature date. If construction has not commenced within that time, Western's Environmental Division must be contacted for an updated environmental review prior to construction.

D. 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 requirements for an EA or an EIS.

Gene Iley, Jr. **Date:** 10/5/11

Signature

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

[1] All reviews and discussions supporting the "not adversely affect" determination have been completed.

ATTACHMENT 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: • 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		
• 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		
• Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act and Floodplains;	x		

• 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		
• Prime agricultural lands;	x		
• Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and	x		
• Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests.			

[1]**Applicable 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 Water Act • Complies with SPCC 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)