



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Boulder Canyon Project - Rate-setting Formulas for Electric Service and Adjustment of Fiscal Year 2018 Base Charge and Rates

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Arizona, California, and Nevada

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is proposing to update the rate-setting formula for electric service for the Boulder Canyon Project (BCP) and adjusting the annual calculation for the fiscal year (FY) 2018 base charge and rates.

Since BCP begins a new 50-year marketing period in FY 2018, WAPA is proposing to update the rate-setting formulas effective October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2022. Proposed Rate Schedule BCP-F10 will update the existing forecast capacity rate formula to reflect BCP's current generating capacity of 2,074 megawatts. No other changes to the formula are proposed.

BCP's base charge and rates for electric service are calculated annually based on formulas that are set for a five-year period. The base charge increased in FY 2018.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.1 - Changing rates and prices

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:

Date Determined: April 25, 2017