

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

**Willow Creek Substation -Transformer Replacement and Substation Modifications  
Grand County, Colorado**

**A. Brief Description of Proposal:** Western proposes to make modifications to the Willow Creek Substation, near Grand Lake, Grand County, Colorado. The project includes removing two existing transformers and replacing them with one larger transformer. The 69/4.16 kV transformers, concrete transformer pads, oil-contaminated soil, two CCVTs and foundations, six 69-kV switches and six fuse assemblies will be removed from the site and the material recycled or disposed of. The project includes installing a new 69-kV transformer, transformer pad, control cable conduits, six new 69-kV switches and six fuse assemblies. The area where the new transformer will be located will require a larger area for oil spill containment and revision of the Spill Containment and Control Countermeasures plan. The existing fence line will be moved out five feet on the south side of the substation and ten feet on the west side but will remain within the substation footprint, the existing ground mat would extend three feet outside of the new fence line. The new fence would be rebuilt to Western standards. Placement of the new transformer will require relocation of the structures leading in to the facility on the east side of the facility.

**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 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)).<sup>1</sup>
- 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:**

If the scope of work of this project changes you must contact Western’s Environmental Division for additional environmental review.

If any cultural materials are discovered during construction, work in the area shall halt immediately, Western and the Colorado 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).

This CX is valid for 3 years after the signature date. If construction has not commenced within that time, contact Western’s Environmental Division for an updated environmental review prior to construction.

**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 requirements for an EA or an EIS.

Shane Collins  
Signature

Date: 7/26/11

Shane Collins  
NEPA Compliance Officer  
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**

<b>Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
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	
<b>Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>UNKNOWN</b>
1) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders <sup>1</sup> .	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"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	x		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> </ul>	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act and Floodplains;</li> </ul>	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> </ul>	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prime agricultural lands;</li> </ul>	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and</li> </ul>	x		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests.</li> </ul>			

<p><b><sup>1</sup>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)</b></p>
<p><u>Department of Energy Floodplain and Wetland Regulations (10 CFR 1022)</u></p>
<p>Complies with Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds. (January 10, 2001)</p>