

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION



Western Area
Power Administration
Rocky Mountain Region

Proposed Action Title: Blanket CX for Routine Maintenance Activities at Existing Offices

Location: Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

Project Number: 2021-034

Expiration Date: December 31, 2026

A. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION:

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Rocky Mountain Region (RMR), conducts routine maintenance activities at existing offices in five states (Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming). These offices include the Brush Field Office, Casper Service Center, Cheyenne Service Center, Cody Service Center, Craig Field Office, Gering Field Office, Hayden Field Office, Loveland Area Power and Marketing Operations Center, Montrose Power Operations Center, Shiprock Field Office, Vernal Field Office, and Virginia Smith Converter Station. These offices are surrounded by a security fence, and the entire area within this fenced perimeter has been previously disturbed.

The following activities occurring **within the existing fenced perimeter of the offices listed above** are covered by this Categorical Exclusion (CX):

- (1) Servicing and testing of equipment;
- (2) Maintenance and installation of above ground propane tanks;
- (3) Repair and replacement of wiring;
- (4) Maintenance, installation, and removal of a solar power array panel and controller from structures;
- (5) Cleanup of spills that don't reach reportable quantities, as defined by RMR's Spill Response Plan (SRP);
- (6) Maintenance and repair of buildings and structures less than 45 years old;
- (7) Repair, replacement, and removal of existing fences and gates, where existing postholes are reused and no new postholes are required;
- (8) Pest management within buildings;
- (9) Vegetation management, including herbicide application;
- (10) Grounds maintenance including snowplowing, mowing, and servicing septic tanks;
- (11) Installation and maintenance of portable sanitary facilities;
- (12) Placing rocks and fill around existing culverts, provided the material is brought in from a commercial source and ground disturbance is not necessary;
- (13) Testing for asbestos-containing materials (ACMs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and lead-based paint;
- (14) Repair and replacement of existing asphalt, concrete, and gravel surfaces;
- (15) Any ground disturbing activity, not to exceed current depth of disturbance;
- (16) Maintenance of existing spill containment, control, and countermeasure (SPCC) structures; and

- (17) Other closely related activities that have little or no environmental or cultural resource impacts or regulated materials concerns as determined by RMR's Environment Department **(requires submission of a Project Initiation Form [PIF] per Stipulation B.2).**

B. STIPULATIONS PERTAINING TO PROPOSAL:

- 1) Activities listed in **Section A, Items 1 through 16**, that will adhere to all Stipulations in Section B **do not require submission of a PIF** to RMR's Environment Department.
- 2) Activities listed in Section A, Items 1 through 16, that will not adhere to all Stipulations in Section B, and other closely related activities (**Section A, Item 17**), **require submission of a PIF** to RMR's Environment Department. If approved, RMR's Environment Department will provide written approval for use of this CX.
- 3) **This CX is valid until December 31, 2026**, or until an updated version is executed by RMR's Environment Department, whichever comes first.
- 4) Any injured or orphaned birds and all observed active nests must be immediately reported to RMR Environment at (970) 593-8803 or (970) 342-6462. Any dead birds must be reported to RMR Environment within twenty-four (24) hours of discovery. Additional documentation, such as photographs and GPS coordinates, may be requested to support RMR's reporting requirements to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 5) If any cultural resources are inadvertently discovered during implementation of the proposed action, work within 100 feet of the discovery area must halt immediately, and an RMR Archaeologist must be contacted immediately at (970) 302-4753 or (970) 286-3523. Work in the area of discovery must not resume until written notification to proceed is provided by an RMR Archaeologist.
- 6) If any possible human remains are inadvertently discovered during implementation of the proposed action, work within 100 feet of the discovery area must halt immediately, and an RMR Archaeologist must be notified immediately at (970) 302-4753 or (970) 286-3523 (no later than 24 hours from the time of discovery). A reasonable effort must be made to protect the remains from looting and/or further damage. Work in the area of discovery must not resume until written notification to proceed is provided by an RMR Archaeologist.
- 7) Pesticide and herbicide applicators must meet all state licensing requirements and must follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines. Applicators must use only EPA-registered pesticides and herbicides that are approved for the intended use and location, and must follow all applicable label directions.
- 8) For facilities covered by a current Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan, RMR's Environment Department must be notified prior to the installation, replacement, or removal of any oil-containing equipment, or placement of fill material to ensure activities are in compliance with the requirements of the SPCC plan.



- 9) Activities involving the use of fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, or other petroleum products must comply with RMR's Spill Response Plan (SRP).
- 10) Handling and disposal of lead-based paint, asbestos, PCB, and other environmentally regulated materials must comply with local, State, and Federal regulations.

C. NUMBER AND TITLE OF THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION BEING APPLIED:

(See text in 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D.)

B1.3. Routine Maintenance

B1.4. Air Conditioning Systems for Existing Equipment

B1.7. Electronic Equipment

B1.11. Fencing

B1.15. Support Buildings

B1.27. Disconnection of Utilities

B1.28. Placing a Facility in an Environmentally Safe Condition

B1.31. Installation or Relocation of Machinery and Equipment

B1.33. Stormwater Runoff Control

B2.1. Workplace Enhancements

B2.2. Building and Equipment Instrumentation

B2.3. Personnel Safety and Health Equipment

B2.5. Facility Safety and Environmental Improvements

B4.6. Additions and Modifications to Transmission Facilities

B4.7. Fiber Optic Cable

B5.1. Actions to Conserve Energy or Water

B5.6. Oil Spill Cleanup

B5.23. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

D. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS 10 CFR 1021.410 (b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B of 10 CFR 1021.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 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 the Department of Energy (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 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (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 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 of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

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 improperly segmented, and 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.

E. DETERMINATION:

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning 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.

**JAMES
WOOD**

Digitally signed by
JAMES WOOD
Date: 2021.03.04
13:05:28 -07'00'

Signature and Date

James Wood
NEPA Compliance Officer
Rocky Mountain Region
Western Area Power Administration

