U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program-Eastern Division-Rate Order No. WAPA-170.

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration, Upper Great Plains Region

Location(s) (City/County/State): Upper Great Plains Region - MT, ND, SD, NE, MN, IA

Proposed Action Description:

The Western Area Power Administration Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region is proposing a modification to rate charge components for integrated system transmission and ancillary service. Western's Upper Great Plains Region (Western-UGP) has joined the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Regional Transmission Organization (RTO). Transmission and ancillary services will be provided over Western-UGP facilities under the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff by SPP as the transmission service provider upon Western-UGP transferring functional control to SPP. Western-UGP needs to adopt new formula rates for these transmission and ancillary services so Western-UGP's costs can be recovered under the SPP Tariff. These formula rates will provide Western sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs, including interest expenses, and repay required investments within the allowable periods. The proposed formula rates are scheduled to go into effect October 1, 2015 and remain in effect until September 30, 2020, or until Western changes the formula rates through another public rate process pursuant to 10 CFR part 903, whichever is sooner.

Notice is published at 79 FR 65205 (November 3, 2014).

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.3 - Electric power marketing rate changes

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: MATTHEW MARSH Digitally signed by MATTHEW MARSH DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Energy, cn=MATTHEW MARSH, 0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=89001000334842 Date: 2015.03.10 13:46:19 -06'00' Date Determined: March 10, 2015

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