U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Construct Communication Site, Gwinner, ND

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): 3 miles north and 0.9 miles west of Gwinner, ND

Proposed Action Description:

Construct a communication site on previously disturbed farm land. Construction to include purchase of 1 acres of land (including the access gravel road), site grading, soil fill material, fencing, concrete footings, steel radio tower, modular building with communication equipment, underground electrical service. The site is not located in an area of great visual value. There are 2 existing communication towers with buildings located within 300 feet of the proposed location. Both towers are taller than the proposed tower. The existing site has been disturbed by farming operations (see attached picture).

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.19 - Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

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: Nicholas J Stas

Date Determined: July 26, 2013

(This form will be locked for editing upon signature)

Proposed New Western Area Power Adminstration Gwinner Communication Site located in part of the SW1/4 of Section 2, T.132N., R.56W., Sargent County, North Dakota (approx. 150' by 150' in the SW corner of the section.
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assumed owner: Gordon P. Anderson Revocable Trust
T.132N R.56W
Sargent County
10
11
AL WOOD
WESTERN AREA POWER ADMIN.
PO BOX 1173
BISMARCK, ND 58502-1173
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