U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Construction of Mingusville Tap

Program or Field Office: Montana Maintenance Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Wibaux, Wibaux County, Montana

Proposed Action Description:

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) will construct a permanent switchyard, called the Mingusville Tap, approximately five miles west of Wibaux, Montana, in Section 31, T15N, R59E. The switchyard will tap Western's Dawson County-Medora 230-kV transmission line adjacent to Goldenwest Electric Cooperative's (Goldenwest) Beaver Hill Substation. Western will design, construct, and own the 230-kV ring bus and tap structures.

Currently, Goldenwest's load in the service territory is served from delivery points on a Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU) 60-kV transmission line which runs between Medora, North Dakota, and Glendive, Montana. This MDU transmission line cannot handle Goldenwest's projected load growth in the area; voltage would drop below service limits on multiple substations in the service area with requested loads added to the system. Construction of the Mingusville Tap will allow some of the future load to be placed on Western's 230-kV system thus eliminating the overload possibilities on the MDU system.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.11 - Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

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: 2015.06.08 12:31:49 -06'00' Date Determined: 06/08/2015

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