

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

**Proposed Action:** Routine Activities

**Location:** Western Area Power Administration Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region

Description of the Proposed Actions: The Western Area Power Administration (Western) Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region (UGP) routinely conducts activities that are part of the day-to-day operations of its facilities and take place at all locations within its 6-State service area. These actions do not vary from year-to-year, are considered as individual actions, and are not part of larger or more extensive actions or programs. This categorical exclusion (CX) determination covers only those actions where there is clearly not a need to do an environmental review to determine if the actions adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. Given the routine nature of the actions covered by this determination. It will require annual reissuance, but will remain in effect until Western determines that revisions are necessary. Western will, however, periodically review this determination and the actions taken under it, to ensure that environmental concerns are not overlooked.

**Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b):** To find that a proposal is categorically excluded, Western shall determine the following:

- 1) The proposed action fits within classes of actions that are listed in Appendix A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the activities will not:
  - a. Threaten a violation of applicable, statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders.
  - b. 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.
  - c. 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; or
  - d. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to: (i) Property (e.g., sites, buildings, structures, objects) of historic, archeological, or architectural significance designated by Federal, state, or local governments or property eligible for listing

on the National Register of historical Places; (ii) Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and floodplains; (iv) 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; (v) Prime agriculture lands; (vi) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and (vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests.

- 2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;
- 3) The proposal is not “connected” (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) to the other actions with the potentially significant impacts, is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2), and is not precluded by CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

This CX determination covers the following categories of actions inclusively:

- Activities applicable to general agency actions as defined by **Appendix A** of Subpart D, DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures.
- **B1.3** Routine maintenance/custodial services for buildings, structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures, vehicles and equipment
- **B1.4** Installation/modification of air conditioning systems for existing equipment
- **B1.6** Installation/modification of retention tanks, small basins to control runoff, spills
- **B1.7** Acquisition, installation, operation, modification, and removal of electricity transmission control and monitoring devices for grid demand and response, communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.
- **B1.9** Placement of airway safety markings/painting (not lighting) of existing lines, antennas
- **B1.11** Fencing, no adverse affect on wildlife movement/surface water flow
- **B1.16** Removal of asbestos from buildings
- **B1.17** Removal of polychlorinated biphenyl-containing items from buildings, other aboveground locations
- **B1.20** Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat
- **B1.22** Relocation of buildings
- **B1.23** Demolition/disposal of buildings
- **B1.24** Property Transfers
- **B1.25** Real property transfers for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management

- **B1.30** Transfer actions
- **B1.33** Stormwater runoff control
- **B1.34** Lead based paint containment, removal, and disposal
- **B2.2** Installation of/Improvements to building instrumentation (remote controls, emergency warning systems, monitors)
- **B2.3** Installation of equipment for personnel safety and health
- **B2.5** Safety and environmental improvements of a facility, replacement/upgrade of facility components
- **B4.1** Contracts/marketing plans/policies for excess electric power
- **B4.2** Export of electric energy
- **B4.3** Electric power marketing rates changes, within normal operating limits
- **B4.4** Power marketing services within normal operating limits
- **B4.6** Additions/modifications to electric power transmission facilities within previously developed area
- **B4.8** New electricity transmission agreements for transfer of power
- **B4.10** Deactivation, dismantling and removal of electric powerlines and substations
- **B5.1** Actions to conserve energy
- **B5.6** Oil spill cleanup operations

Number and Title of the Categorical Exclusion Applied: The categories of actions described above are routine activities specifically listed in the DOE NEPA Regulations 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, appendices A1-15, and appendix B.

Determination Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified classes of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Nicholas J. Stas  
 Nicholas J. Stas  
 NEPA Compliance Officer

March 14, 2013  
 Date

## **Appendix A to Subpart D of Part 1021—Categorical Exclusions Applicable to General Agency Actions**

### *Table of Contents*

- A1. Routine DOE business actions
  - A2. Clarifying or administrative contract actions
  - A3. Certain actions by Office of Hearings and Appeals
  - A4. Interpretations and rulings for existing regulations
  - A5. Interpretive rulemakings with no change in environmental effect
  - A6. Procedural rulemakings
  - A7. [Reserved]
  - A8. Awards of certain contracts
  - A9. Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination
  - A10. Reports and recommendations on non-DOE legislation
  - A11. Technical advice and assistance to organizations
  - A12. Emergency preparedness planning
  - A13. Procedural documents
  - A14. Approval of technical exchange arrangements
  - A15. International agreements for energy research and development
- A1 Routine actions necessary to support the normal conduct of DOE business limited to administrative, financial, and personnel actions.
- A2 Contract interpretations, amendments, and modifications that are clarifying or administrative in nature.
- A3 Adjustments, exceptions, exemptions, appeals, and stays, modifications, or rescissions of orders issued by the Office of Hearings and Appeals.
- A4 Interpretations and rulings with respect to existing regulations, or modifications or rescissions of such interpretations and rulings.

A5 Rulemaking interpreting or amending an existing rule or regulation that does not change the environmental effect of the rule or regulation being amended.

A6 Rulemakings that are strictly procedural, including, but not limited to, rulemaking (under 48 CFR chapter 9) establishing procedures for technical and pricing proposals and establishing contract clauses and contracting practices for the purchase of goods and services, and rulemaking (under 10 CFR part 600) establishing application and review procedures for, and administration, audit, and closeout of, grants and cooperative agreements.

A7 [Reserved]

A8 Award of contracts for technical support services, management and operation of a government-owned facility, and personal services.

A9 Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

A10 Reports or recommendations on legislation or rulemaking that is not proposed by DOE.

A11 Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

A12 Emergency preparedness planning activities, including the designation of onsite evacuation routes.

A13 Administrative, organizational, or procedural Policies, Orders, Notices, Manuals, and Guides.

A14 Approval of technical exchange arrangements for information, data, or personnel with other countries or international organizations, including, but not limited to, assistance in identifying and analyzing another country's energy resources, needs and options.

A15 Approval of DOE participation in international "umbrella" agreements for cooperation in energy research and development activities that would not commit the U.S. to any specific projects or activities.

## **Appendix B to Subpart D of Part 1021—Categorical Exclusions Applicable to Specific Agency Actions**

B1.3 Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures (including, but not limited to, pathways, roads, and railroads), vehicles and equipment, and localized vegetation and pest control, during which operations may be suspended and resumed, provided that the activities would be conducted in a manner in accordance with applicable requirements. Custodial services are activities to preserve facility appearance, working conditions, and sanitation (such as cleaning, window washing, lawn mowing, trash collection, painting, and snow removal). Routine maintenance activities, corrective (that is, repair), preventive, and predictive, are required to maintain and preserve buildings, structures, infrastructures, and equipment in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designated purpose. Such maintenance may occur as a result of severe weather (such as hurricanes, floods, and tornados), wildfires, and other such events. Routine maintenance may result in replacement to the extent that replacement is in-kind and is not a substantial upgrade or improvement. In-kind replacement includes installation of new components to replace outmoded components, provided that the replacement does not result in a significant change in the expected useful life, design capacity, or function of the facility. Routine maintenance does not include replacement of a major component that significantly extends the originally intended useful life of a facility (for example, it does not include the replacement of a reactor vessel near the end of its useful life). Routine maintenance activities include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Repair or replacement of facility equipment, such as lathes, mills, pumps, and presses;
- (b) Door and window repair or replacement;
- (c) Wall, ceiling, or floor repair or replacement;
- (d) Reroofing;
- (e) Plumbing, electrical utility, lighting, and telephone service repair or replacement;
- (f) Routine replacement of high-efficiency particulate air filters;
- (g) Inspection and/or treatment of currently installed utility poles;
- (h) Repair of road embankments;
- (i) Repair or replacement of fire protection sprinkler systems;
- (j) Road and parking area resurfacing, including construction of temporary access to facilitate resurfacing, and scraping and grading of unpaved surfaces;
- (k) Erosion control and soil stabilization measures (such as reseeded, gabions, grading, and revegetation);

(l) Surveillance and maintenance of surplus facilities in accordance with DOE Order 435.1, "Radioactive Waste Management," or its successor;

(m) Repair and maintenance of transmission facilities, such as replacement of conductors of the same nominal voltage, poles, circuit breakers, transformers, capacitors, crossarms, insulators, and downed powerlines, in accordance, where appropriate, with 40 CFR part 761 (Polychlorinated Biphenyls Manufacturing, Processing, Distribution in Commerce, and Use Prohibitions) or its successor;

(n) Routine testing and calibration of facility components, subsystems, or portable equipment (such as control valves, in-core monitoring devices, transformers, capacitors, monitoring wells, lysimeters, weather stations, and flumes);

(o) Routine decontamination of the surfaces of equipment, rooms, hot cells, or other interior surfaces of buildings (by such activities as wiping with rags, using strippable latex, and minor vacuuming), and removal of contaminated intact equipment and other material (not including spent nuclear fuel or special nuclear material in nuclear reactors); and

(p) Removal of debris.

B1.4 Installation or modification of air conditioning systems required for temperature control for operation of existing equipment.

B1.6 Installation or modification of retention tanks or small (normally under one acre) basins and associated piping and pumps for existing operations to control runoff or spills (such as under 40 CFR part 112). Modifications include, but are not limited to, installing liners or covers. (See also B1.33 of this appendix.)

B1.7 Acquisition, installation, operation, modification, and removal of electricity transmission control and monitoring devices for grid demand and response, communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.

B1.9 Placement of airway safety markings on, painting of, and repair and in-kind replacement of lighting on powerlines and antenna structures, wind turbines, and similar structures in accordance with applicable requirements (such as Federal Aviation Administration standards).

B1.11 Installation of fencing, including, but not limited to border marking, that would not have the potential to significantly impede wildlife population movement (including migration) or surface water flow.

B1.16 Removal of asbestos-containing materials from buildings in accordance with applicable requirements (such as 40 CFR part 61, "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants"; 40 CFR part 763, "Asbestos"; 29 CFR part 1910, subpart I, "Personal Protective Equipment"; and 29 CFR part 1926, "Safety and Health Regulations for Construction"; and appropriate state and local requirements, including certification of removal contractors and technicians).

B1.17 Removal of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-containing items (including, but not limited to, transformers and capacitors), PCB-containing oils flushed from transformers, PCB-flushing solutions, and PCB-containing spill materials from buildings or other aboveground locations in accordance with applicable requirements (such as 40 CFR part 761).

B1.22 Relocation of buildings (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated buildings) to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

B1.23 Demolition and subsequent disposal of buildings, equipment, and support structures (including, but not limited to, smoke stacks and parking lot surfaces), provided that there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment.

B1.30 Transfer actions, in which the predominant activity is transportation, provided that (1) the receipt and storage capacity and management capability for the amount and type of materials, equipment, or waste to be moved already exists at the receiving site and (2) all necessary facilities and operations at the receiving site are already permitted, licensed, or approved, as appropriate. Such transfers are not regularly scheduled as part of ongoing routine operations.

## *B2. Categorical Exclusions Applicable to Safety and Health*

B2.2 Installation of, or improvements to, building and equipment instrumentation (including, but not limited to, remote control panels, remote monitoring capability, alarm and surveillance systems, control systems to provide automatic shutdown, fire detection and protection systems, announcement and emergency warning systems, criticality and radiation monitors and alarms, and safeguards and security equipment).

B2.3 Installation of, or improvements to, equipment for personnel safety and health (including, but not limited to, eye washes, safety showers, radiation monitoring devices, fumehoods, and associated collection and exhaust systems), provided that the covered actions would not have the potential to cause a significant increase in emissions.

B2.5 Safety and environmental improvements of a facility (including, but not limited to, replacement and upgrade of facility components) that do not result in a significant change in the expected useful life, design capacity, or function of the facility and during which operations may be suspended and then resumed. Improvements include, but are not limited to, replacement/upgrade of control valves, in-core monitoring devices, facility air filtration systems, or substation transformers or capacitors; addition of structural bracing to meet earthquake standards and/or sustain high wind loading; and replacement of aboveground or belowground tanks and related piping, provided that there is no evidence of leakage, based on testing in accordance with applicable requirements (such as 40 CFR part 265, "Interim Status Standards for Owners and Operators of Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities" and 40 CFR part 280, "Technical Standards and Corrective Action Requirements for Owners and Operators of Underground Storage Tanks"). These actions do not include rebuilding or modifying substantial portions of a facility (such as replacing a reactor vessel).

*B4. Categorical Exclusions Applicable to Power Marketing Administrations and to All of DOE with Regard to Power Resources*

B4.1 Establishment and implementation of contracts, policies, and marketing and allocation plans related to electric power acquisition that involve only the use of the existing transmission system and existing generation resources operating within their normal operating limits.

B4.2 Export of electric energy as provided by Section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act over existing transmission systems or using transmission system changes that are themselves categorically excluded.

B4.3 Rate changes for electric power, power transmission, and other products or services provided by a Power Marketing Administration that are based on a change in revenue requirements if the operations of generation projects would remain within normal operating limits.

B4.4 Power marketing services and power management activities (including, but not limited to, storage, load shaping and balancing, seasonal exchanges, and other similar activities), provided that the operations of generating projects would remain within normal operating limits.

B4.6 Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities within a previously disturbed or developed facility area. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, load shaping projects (such as the installation and use of flywheels and battery arrays), changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms.

B4.8 New electricity transmission agreements, and modifications to existing transmission arrangements, to use a transmission facility of one system to transfer power of and for another system, provided that no new generation projects would be involved and no physical changes in the transmission system would be made beyond the previously disturbed or developed facility area.

B4.10 Deactivation, dismantling, and removal of electric transmission facilities (including, but not limited to, electric powerlines, substations, and switching stations) and abandonment and restoration of rights-of-way (including, but not limited to, associated access roads).

*B5. Categorical Exclusions Applicable to Conservation, Fossil, and Renewable Energy Activities*

B5.1 (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of

thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix.

(b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) Have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

B5.6 Removal of oil and contaminated materials recovered in oil spill cleanup operations and disposal of these materials in accordance with applicable requirements (such as the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan).