

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION



Proposed Action Title: Pilot Butte-Copper Mountain 34.5-kV Distribution Line and Access Road Emergency Repairs

Location: Fremont County, Wyoming

Project Number: 2022-057

Expiration Date: May 31, 2022

A. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Rocky Mountain Region (RMR), conducted emergency structure replacements on its existing Pilot Butte-Copper Mountain (PB-COP) 34.5-kV Distribution Line, in Fremont County, Wyoming. These emergency repairs were completed on Structures 41-3 through 43-1 in May 2022. Prior to repairs, right-of-way (ROW) access road maintenance was conducted along Burgess Road, and between PB-COP Structures 40-4 and 42-15 to safely access damaged structures. Access road maintenance included blading areas along existing access roads and the installation of rock at existing low water crossings. Repair activities included installing new same-hole structures and associated hardware at Structures 41-3, 41-4, 41-8, 41-9, 41-13, 42-1, 42-2, 42-7, 42-12, 42-14, 42-15, and 43-1. Equipment used for this project included ATVs/UTVs, crane trucks, backhoe, bucket trucks, dump trucks, excavator, motor grader, skid-steer, and utility trucks. Work was confined to WAPA's ROW on private lands and tribal lands managed as the Wind River Reservation. The ROW was accessed by existing access routes; new road construction occurred.

B. STIPULATIONS PERTAINING TO PROPOSAL:

This Categorical Exclusion (CX) covers work that has already been completed. No further work is authorized under this CX. If additional work is required, RMR's Environment Department must be contacted to determine whether additional environmental review is required.

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

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

B1.3 Routine maintenance

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.

Signature and Date

James Wood, Regional Environmental Manager
Rocky Mountain Region
Western Area Power Administration

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