



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Beresford 115kV transmission lines and substation.

Program or Field Office: South Dakota Maintenance Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): City of Beresford, South Dakota

Proposed Action Description:

Beresford Municipal Utilities (BMU) is proposing to construct a new 115 kV electrical transmission line to source a new substation to be constructed in the City of Beresford. The north terminus of the proposed transmission line will be the WAPA Beresford Substation located northeast of the City of Beresford. The south terminus is a new proposed substation located in the NE1/4 SE1/4 Section 32, T96N, R50W. The total distance of this line will be approximately 4.5 miles. BMU also is proposing to construct a second transmission line to connect their existing substation to the proposed substation (roughly 4 miles). This transmission line will be constructed within the city limits. The total length of new transmission line is less than 10 miles. The project also includes the construction of a new 115 kV to 12.5 kV low-profile electric power substation on the northeast side of Beresford.

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
Date: 2019.02.13 10:29:03 -07'00'

Date Determined: 02/13/2019

Beresford 115kV Transmission Line and Substation (2019)

Resource		Discussion/Required Commitments
Water Resources	Per the USFWS, the project will cross Blind Creek and 2 unnamed streams.	The transmission line will span all stream crossings. A sediment and erosion control plan has been developed and will be submitted to SD Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP).
Birds	Eagles. Per the USFWS, bald eagles may occur in the project area.	The electrocution of raptors is primarily a distribution concern due to the close phase spacing of the conductors. Recent publications recommend 60 inches of spacing between phases to minimize raptor electrocution. The proposed structure profile the phase conductor is approximately 55 inches from the steel transmission structure. The phase-phase spacing on the distribution would be approximately 36 inches. This does not meet the recommended spacing. Numerous manufacturers have developed perch guards to minimize perching on the distribution crossarms. The project intends to install perch guards or insulator covers at each distribution arm/crossarm.
	Other birds	Per SDGFP recommendations, the Project will install bird flight diverters along the transmission line in parcels 2, 14, 17, and 18 (these are areas where the transmission lines crosses streams).
T&E Species	Northern Long-eared Bat	The bat is a summer resident and seasonal migrant in Lincoln County, SD. WAPA has determined the project will have no effect to the species – no impacts to suitable maternity or roosting habitat. Foraging habitat is typically on forested hillsides and ridges about 3-10 feet above the ground. The project will not impact typical foraging habitat.
	Red Knot	This species is a rare seasonal migrant in Lincoln County. WAPA has determined the project will have no effect – there is no suitable habitat. The project is located in cropland and there are no nearby waterbodies.
	Topeka shiner	Known resident in South Dakota. The Topeka shiner occupies tributaries of the James, Vermillion, and Big Sioux rivers in South Dakota. The streams in the area are tributaries of the Vermillion River. WAPA has determined the project will have no effect – the project will not involve in-stream work and all BMPs indicated by the USFWS will be implemented.
	Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	No effect. The project is located in cropland, which does not support the moist tallgrass prairie and sedge meadow habitat that this species inhabits.
Cultural	WAPA prepared a survey reported entitled “A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Proposed Beresford 115kV Transmission Line in	WAPA determined <i>No Historic Properties Affected</i> for the Proposed Action and SHPO concurred with this determination on 12/20/18. Properties 39LN0117 and 39LN2003/39UN2003 shall be avoided by ground disturbing activities.
Prime Farmland	The project area does contain areas of prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, and prime farmland if drained.	The nature of this project would not permanently alter the use of these areas as farmland.
Hazardous Materials	South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources advised that several contaminated areas may be in the vicinity of the project; however, no contaminated site is within one block of the project boundary.	