U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program - Eastern Division (P-SMBP-ED): Rate Order No. WAPA-203

Program or Field Office: Upper Great Plains Region (UGP)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Region-wide

Proposed Action Description:
WAPA-UGP proposes revised formula rates for the P-SMBP-ED firm power, firm peaking power service, and sale of surplus products. The existing formula rates for these services, under Rate Schedules P-SED-F13, P-SED-FP13, and P-SED-M1, expire on December 31, 2022. UGP is proposing to update the formula rates for firm power service under Rate Schedule P-SED-F14, firm peaking power service under Rate Schedule P-SED-FP14, and sale of surplus products under Rate Schedule P-SED-M2, effective January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2027 or until WAPA supersedes or changes the formula rates through another public rate process pursuant to 10 CFR part 903, whichever occurs first. The newly proposed rate schedules would increase the P-SMBP base and drought adder components.

The drivers for the base component increase are associated with the Polar Vortex event in February 2021, increased O&M from WAPA and the generating agencies, increased purchase power pricing volatility, and the loss of balancing authority revenues after RMR joined the WEIS and the WACM BA no longer provides certain services. The driver behind the P-SMBP drought adder component increase is the Army Corp of Engineers Annual Operating Plan projecting less than average generation for the next several years in the P-SMBP. Uncertainties with water inflows, hydro generation, and replacement energy prices continue to pose potential risks meeting our firm power contractual commitments.

The complete description of the new order can be found on WAPA's website at: https://www.wapa.gov/regions/UGP/rates/pages/rates.aspx

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:
B4.3 - Electric power marketing rate changes

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: John D. Russell Digitally signed by John D. Russell Date: 2022.08.26 08:07:03 -06'00' Date Determined: 08/26/2022