



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Jamestown #1 - Menoken Tap: Install underground fiber to Basin Electric's new maintenance facility.

Program or Field Office: Upper Great Plains Regional Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Burleigh County, North Dakota. Sections 20, 21, 28, & 29, Township 139N, Range 78W

Proposed Action Description:

Basin Electric is constructing a cell tower north-northwest of the city of Menoken, North Dakota. Basin proposes to install two underground fiber lines from their new maintenance facility/tower location to WAPA's BS-JT1 230kV transmission line. Two proposed lines would expand from Basin's maintenance building and tower location, on the west and east, and extend north to WAPA's existing BS-JT1 230kV transmission line.

The western project corridor measures 2,714 feet long by 100 feet wide and is roughly 6.4 acres. The western corridor crosses under I-94 for roughly 1,370 feet. Basin would bore under the interstate at this location. The western corridor will stay within the current highway ROW. The eastern corridor measures 2,837 feet long by 200 feet wide and is roughly 13.6 acres. The eastern corridor crosses I-94 for roughly 150 feet, which would be bored under the instate at this location.

The project area is primarily corn and alfalfa fields, interstate roadway and right-of-way, and residential development. There are no environmental resources of concern and no required environmental commitments.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.7 - Fiber optic cable

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: 2018.05.02 10:40:36 -06'00'

Date Determined: 05/02/2018