

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, infrastructures, 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/removal of communication systems, data processing 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
- **B1.22** Relocation of buildings
- **B1.23** Demolition/disposal of buildings
- **B1.30** Transfer actions
- **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.


for Nicholas J. Stas
NEPA Compliance Officer

Dec 17, 2010
Date

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

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- A1. Routine administrative/financial/personnel actions
 - A2. Contract interpretations/amendments/modifications, clarifying or administrative
 - A3. Certain actions by Office of Hearings and Appeals
 - A4. Interpretations/rulings for existing regulations
 - A5. Rulemaking (interpreting/amending), no change in environmental effect
 - A6. Rulemakings, procedural
 - A7. Transfer of property, use unchanged
 - A8. Award of contracts for technical support/management and operation/personal services
 - A9. Information gathering/data analysis/document preparation/dissemination
 - A10. Reports or recommendations on non-DOE legislation
 - A11. Technical advice and assistance to organizations
 - A12. Emergency preparedness planning
 - A13. Procedural Orders, Notices, and guidelines
 - A14. Approval of technical exchange arrangements
 - A15. Umbrella agreements for cooperation in energy research and development
- A1 Routine actions necessary to support the normal conduct of agency business, such as 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, such as rulemaking (under 48 CFR part 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 Transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests in personal property (e.g., equipment and materials) or real property (e.g., permanent structures and land), if property use is to remain unchanged; i.e., the type and magnitude of impacts would remain essentially the same.

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, audits), data analysis (including computer modelling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (Also see B3.1.)

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 Orders, Notices, and guidelines.

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 (e.g., pathways, roads, and railroads), vehicles and equipment, and localized vegetation and pest control, during which operations may be suspended and resumed. 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. 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 if 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 of facility equipment, such as lathes, mills, pumps, and presses;
- (b) Door and window repair or replacement;
- (c) Wall, ceiling, or floor repair;
- (d) Reroofing;
- (e) Plumbing, electrical utility, and telephone service repair;
- (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;
- (k) Erosion control and soil stabilization measures (such as reseeding and revegetation);
- (l) Surveillance and maintenance of surplus facilities in accordance with DOE Order 5820.2, "Radioactive Waste Management";

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

(n) Routine testing and calibration of facility components, subsystems, or portable equipment (including but not limited to, control valves, in-core monitoring devices, transformers, capacitors, monitoring wells, lysimeters, weather stations, and flumes); and

(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), including removal of contaminated intact equipment and other materials (other than spent nuclear fuel or special nuclear material in nuclear reactors).

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.

B1.7 Acquisition, installation, operation, and removal of communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.

B1.9 Placement of airway safety markings and painting (but excluding lighting) of existing electrical transmission lines and antenna structures in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

B1.11 Installation of fencing, including that for border marking, that will not adversely affect wildlife movements or surface water flow.

B1.16 Removal of asbestos-containing materials from buildings in accordance with 40 CFR part 61 (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants), subpart M (National Emission Standard for Asbestos); 40 CFR part 763 (Asbestos), subpart G (Asbestos Abatement Projects); 29 CFR part 1910, subpart I (Personal Protective Equipment), §1910.134 (Respiratory Protection); subpart Z (Toxic and Hazardous Substances), §1910.1001 (Asbestos, tremolite, anthophyllite and actinolite); and 29 CFR part 1926 (Safety and Health Regulations for Construction), subpart D (Occupational Health and Environmental Controls), §1926.58 (Asbestos, tremolite, anthophyllite, and actinolite), other appropriate Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards in title 29, chapter XVII of the CFR, and appropriate state and local requirements, including certification of removal contractors and technicians.

B1.17 Removal of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-containing items, such as transformers or capacitors, PCB-containing oils flushed from transformers, PCB-flushing solutions, and PCB-containing spill materials from buildings or other aboveground locations in accordance with 40

CFR part 761 (Polychlorinated Biphenyls Manufacturing, Processing, Distribution in Commerce, and Use Prohibitions).

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).

B1.30 Transfer actions, in which the predominant activity is transportation, and in which the amount and type of materials, equipment or waste to be moved is small and incidental to the amount of such materials, equipment, or waste that is already a part of ongoing operations at the receiving site. 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, and fumehoods and associated collection and exhaust systems, provided that emissions would not increase.

B2.5 Safety and environmental improvements of a facility, including 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 may 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 if there is no evidence of leakage, based on testing that meets performance requirements in 40 CFR part 280, subpart D (40 CFR part 280.40). This includes activities taken under RCRA, subtitle I; 40 CFR part 265, subpart J; 40 CFR part 280, subparts B, C, and D; and other applicable state, Federal and local requirements for underground storage tanks. These actions do not include rebuilding or modifying substantial portions of a facility, such as replacing a reactor

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, marketing plans, policies, allocation plans, or acquisition of excess electric power that does not involve: (1) the integration of a new generation resource, (2) physical changes in the transmission system beyond the previously

developed facility area, unless the changes are themselves categorically excluded, or (3) changes in the normal operating limits of generation resources.

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, including storage, load shaping, seasonal exchanges, or other similar activities if the operations of generating projects would remain within normal operating limits.

B4.6 Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including, but not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, 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, if no new generation projects would be involved and no physical changes in the transmission system would be made beyond the previously developed facility area.

B4.10 Deactivation, dismantling, and removal of electric powerlines, substations, switching stations, and other transmission facilities, and right-of-way abandonment.

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

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

B5.6 Removal of oil and contaminated materials recovered in oil spill cleanup operations in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and disposed of in accordance with local contingency plans in accordance with the NCP.