



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Required network upgrades along Yankton Junction-Gavins Point 230kV, as a result of Magnet Wind interconnection into SPP.

Program or Field Office: Upper Great Plains Region

Location(s) (City/County/State): Yankton County, South Dakota and Cedar County, Nebraska

Proposed Action Description:

EDF Renewable Energy intends to build a wind project (Magnet Wind) in Cedar County, NE. As a result, EDF submitted a request in SPP to interconnect to NPPD's Belden 115kV Substation. Although Magnet Wind would not interconnect directly to WAPA infrastructure, several necessary system upgrades to WAPA infrastructure were identified. The Proposed Action is to upgrade approximately 4 miles of WAPA's existing Yankton Junction - Gavins Point 230kV transmission line by reconductoring the transmission line atop the existing pole structures. The project is located in Sections 5, 8, 17, and 20 of Township 93 N, Range 56 W in Yankton County, South Dakota and Section 7, Township 33 N, Range 1 W in Cedar County, Nebraska.

See the attached discussion of environmental conditions and required environmental commitments.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.13 - Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

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: 2018.04.03 15:45:28 -06'00'

Date Determined: 04/03/2018