



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Moorhead Approach Reroute

Program or Field Office: North Dakota Maintenance Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): North Dakota

Proposed Action Description:

The City of Moorhead is expanding their Moorhead substation which will require WAPA to relocate both the FA-MH 230-kV and MH-MO 230-kV approach into the substation. WAPA will relocate structures 10/2 and 10/4 as well as construct two new turning dead-end structures 10/2A and 10/3. A temporary shoofly will also be constructed to raise the current FA-MH 230-kV line so that the City of Moorhead will be able to perform construction inside the substation. WAPA is currently working on the contract for this project so there is currently no funding.

Environmental Requirements:

See "Attachment 1 – Environmental Discussion & Commitments".

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.6 - Additions and modifications to transmission 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:

Date Determined:

10/06/2023

Attachment 1 – Environmental Discussion & Commitments

Resource		Discussion/Required Commitments
<i>Water Resources</i>	No structures will be placed in wetlands, nor will WAPA excavate, fill, or otherwise alter/modify the course, location, condition, or capacity of wetlands.	The project fits within the criteria of Nationwide Permit #57 (https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utis/getfile/collection/p16021coll7/id/16848). WAPA will comply with all NWP requirements, including any requirements for pre-construction notification. No Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act permit is anticipated.
<i>Land Use</i>	The project area is classified as Not prime farmland (per USGS Web Soil Survey). Project is not located in or near other formally classified lands (National Parks, National Monuments or Battlefields, Wilderness Areas, recreational rivers, lake shores and trails, national wildlife refuges, State parks, or Native American Reservation land), nor areas of high scenic beauty, scenic overlooks, scenic highways, wilderness areas, etc.	There will be no conversion of prime/unique farmland to a non-agricultural use.
<i>Fish and Wildlife</i>	The project would cause no effects to critical habitats, T&E spp., wetlands, etc. There are no known eagle/raptor nests within 2 miles of the project sites, but the Red River 1.5 miles to the west is a likely nesting area. If an eagle/hawk nest is observed within 2 miles of the project site a WAPA biologist should be notified immediately.	Appropriate spill, runoff, and erosion measures will be implemented, as described in WAPA’s Construction Standard 13.
<i>Migratory Birds</i>	Nesting migratory birds	No effect – all work in croplands.
<i>Eagles</i>	Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles	There are no known eagle/raptor nests within 2 miles of the project sites. If an eagle/hawk nest is observed within 2 miles of the project site a WAPA biologist should be notified immediately.
<i>T&E Species</i>	Northern Long-eared Bat	No effect – no tree removal planned.
	Piping Plover	No effect – all work in croplands. If a piping plover is observed within the project area, construction will cease until a WAPA biologist has been contacted.
	Whooping Crane	No effect – all work in croplands. If a whooping crane is observed within the project area, construction will cease until a WAPA biologist has been contacted.
	Dakota Skipper	No effect – all work in croplands.

Cultural	WAPA surveyed the proposed structure locations, which were negative for any cultural material. WAPA completed a cultural resource inventory. Based on the results of the survey, WAPA determined that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project. The MN SHPO concurred with WAPA's determination on 10/4/23.	If, during the course of any ground disturbance related to the project, any bones, artifacts, foundations, or other indications of past human occupation of the area are uncovered, the project work within 100' of the discovery will stop immediately and a WAPA archaeologist will be notified.
Other	While transportation will experience intermittent delays due to construction, the county Commissioners have approved a 12 month construction permit, and a desktop qualitative review of impacts to transportation, air quality, hazardous materials, human health and safety, socioeconomic and community resources identified no concerns.	