

# CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION



Western Area  
Power Administration  
Rocky Mountain Region

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**Proposed Action Title: Alcova-Casper North and South 115kV Transmission Line  
Right of Way Expansion**

**Location: Natrona County, Wyoming**

**Project Number: 2024-009**

**Expiration Date: December 31, 2029**

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## **A. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION:**

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Rocky Mountain Region (RMR), proposes to purchase an additional 40 feet of Right of Way (ROW) on the Alcova-Casper North and South 115 kV Transmission Lines between structures 1/2 to 25/5 in Natrona County, Wyoming. The proposal is an administrative action and will not result in any ground disturbing activities. The additional ROW will cross private lands, state lands, and public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management-Casper Field Office.

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## **B. STIPULATIONS PERTAINING TO PROPOSAL:**

- 1) If the scope of work of this project changes, RMR's Environment Department must be contacted to determine whether additional environmental review is required.
- 2) **This CX is valid until December 31, 2029**, or until an updated version is executed by RMR's Environment Department, whichever comes first.
- 3) Any injured or orphaned birds and all observed active nests must be immediately reported to the RMR Avian Protection Lead at (970) 593-8803. Any dead birds must be reported to the RMR Avian Protection Lead within twenty-four (24) hours of discovery. Additional documentation, such as photographs and GPS coordinates, may be requested to support RMR's reporting requirements to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 4) If any cultural resources are inadvertently discovered during implementation of the proposed action, work within 100 feet of the discovery area must halt immediately, and an RMR Archaeologist must be contacted immediately at (970) 302-4753 or (970) 286-3523. Work in the area of discovery must not resume until written notification to proceed is provided by an RMR Archaeologist.
- 5) If any possible human remains are inadvertently discovered during implementation of the proposed action, work within 100 feet of the discovery area must halt immediately, and an RMR Archaeologist must be notified immediately at (970) 302-4753 or (970) 286-3523 (no later than 24 hours from the time of discovery). A reasonable effort must be made to protect

the remains from looting and/or further damage. Work in the area of discovery must not resume until written notification to proceed is provided by an RMR Archaeologist.

- 6) Pesticide and herbicide applicators must meet all state licensing requirements and must follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines. Applicators must use only EPA-registered pesticides and herbicides that are approved for the intended use and location, and must follow all applicable label directions.
- 7) For facilities covered by a current Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan, RMR's Environment Department must be notified prior to the installation, replacement, or removal of any oil-containing equipment, or placement of fill material to ensure activities are in compliance with the requirements of the SPCC plan.
- 8) Activities involving the use of fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, or other petroleum products must comply with RMR's Spill Response Plan (SRP).
- 9) Handling and disposal of lead-based paint, asbestos, PCB, and other environmentally regulated materials must comply with local, State, and Federal regulations.

**C. NUMBER AND TITLE OF THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION BEING APPLIED:**

(See text in 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D.)

B1.24. Property Transfers

**D. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS 10 CFR 1021.410 (b):** (See full text in regulation)

The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B of 10 CFR 1021.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 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 the Department of Energy (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 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (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 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 of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.



- 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 improperly segmented, and the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.
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#### **E. DETERMINATION:**

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning 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.

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Signature and Date

James Wood, Regional Environmental Manager  
Rocky Mountain Region  
Western Area Power Administration

Prepared by:  
Abraham Thompson, Archaeologist/Natural Resource Specialist

