



Categorical Exclusion Determination

Western Area Power Administration

U.S. Department of Energy



<u>Proposed Action Title:</u>	Fargo-Grand Forks Life Extension Phase 1
<u>WAPA Region:</u>	Upper Great Plains
<u>Location (County/State):</u>	Cass, North Dakota
<u>CX Determination Number:</u>	2026-UGP-013
<u>CX Determination Expiration Date*:</u>	07/28/2031

**CX is valid until the date above (no longer than five years from when document was signed) or completion of work started prior to the expiration of the CX Determination, unless there are substantial changes to the scope of work, location, or applicable regulations. If such changes occur prior to the expiration of the CX, the Region Environmental Program will review the analysis to ensure the CX is still applicable.*

Proposed Action Description:

WAPA will replace their structures and line hardware for phase 1 of the Fargo to Grand Forks Life Extension. Structures to be replaced on the Fargo-Grand Forks line are 0/1-0/3, 2/7-3/2, 18/3-19/6, 31/6-43/6, 58/7, 62/1, 65/1. The project will include wood structure replacements, wood crossarm(s) replacements, steel bedrail installation, insulator replacement, and anchor installation.

All work will be within WAPA's existing ROW. All structures are Tangent HS-1 structures that will be put back in their original holes with no additional ground disturbance, with the exception of structures 19/1, 19/6, 42/5, 43/2. Those will be 3-pole guyed structures that will all require new ground disturbance at the same structure locations due to pole placement differences.

Structures at all major interstate and highway crossings will commence in 2026 and the remaining structures 31/6 - 43/6 are planned to occur in 2028.

Environmental Requirements during Project Implementation:

- No requirements.
- Biological conservation measures for best management practices attached.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied (Number and Title):

B1.3 Routine maintenance

B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

Findings:

For the DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102 and Appendix B to [10 CFR Part 1021](#), and also Section 5.4 (Applying one or more categorical exclusions to a proposal) and Appendices B and C of [DOE's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures](#) (Jun. 30, 2025).



Requirements and guidance in 10 CFR 1021.102 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures: (See full text in regulation and in Implementing Procedures)



The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B or C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025).

To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures. Additionally, for CXs adopted pursuant to NEPA Section 109 (see DNIP, Appendix C), the originating Federal agency's integral elements or extraordinary circumstances must be in accordance with the applicable requirements.



There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. DOE or an applicant may modify the proposal to avoid reasonably foreseeable adverse significant effects such that the categorical exclusion would apply.



The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

[Note: For proposals that fit within the categorical exclusions listed in Appendix C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, see DOE's notice of adoption for the subject Appendix C categorical exclusion for additional considerations. DOE notices of adoption for other agency categorical exclusions may be found on [DOE's Section 109 webpage](#).]

Determination:

Based on my review of the proposed action, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

WAPA Authorized Official Signature:

Senior Vice President and Upper Great Plains Regional Manager