



Categorical Exclusion Determination

Western Area Power Administration

U.S. Department of Energy



Proposed Action Title:	Lake Helena to Canyon Ferry Structure Replacements
WAPA Region:	Upper Great Plains
Location (County/State):	Lewis and Clark County
CX Determination Number:	2026-UGP-016
CX Determination Expiration Date*:	08/19/2031

**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:

The A and B parallel lines from Lake Helena Switchyard to Canyon Ferry Substation will receive structural replacements over the course of upcoming years. This work was previously reviewed and approved, but there were various delays and it was not yet completed. Structures along both parallel 100kV lines will be replaced from 0-4 to 6-7, excluding any structures that were recently replaced. 0-4 to 3-6 will be replaced on either line A or B first, then next year the other line in this section will be done. Afterward, 3-7 to 6-7 will undergo the same continued work. A contractor will be engaged in 2028, or after, to complete replacement of structures 7-1 to 7-3 and to secure the line across the river at 6-8 and Canyon Ferry Substation.

The maintenance will include in kind wood replacement structures at the existing locations, auguring, anchor installation, brush clearing, tree cutting or vegetation management as necessary to accommodate the replacement work. A pad will be made at 4-1 to level uneven peaked ground. Existing easement access will be used, along with land permission from private and government entities. Work will occur in existing ROW.

Environmental Requirements during Project Implementation:

- Bird diverters should be placed at all crossings included in the conservation measures, especially at the Missouri River crossing. Biological conservation measures provided as attachment to project manager.

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

B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

B1.3 Routine maintenance

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