



Categorical Exclusion Determination

Western Area Power Administration

U.S. Department of Energy



Proposed Action Title:	SMUD El Rio Easement Acquisition and Transmission Line Relocation
WAPA Region:	Sierra Nevada Region
Location (County/State):	Sacramento County, California
CX Determination Number:	2026-SNR-008
CX Determination Expiration Date*:	12/31/2030

**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 Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has undertaken a project to construct and operate a new 230-115-69 kilovolt (kV) substation that would replace the existing Elverta Substation located south of Elverta Road and just west of El Rio Avenue in Elverta, California. This substation will be on a portion of the existing Elverta Substation as well as on the property immediately east of the Elverta Substation. The existing Elverta Substation components would be decommissioned and removed from the site as it is nearing the end of its service life.

WAPA maintains a transmission line that approaches the existing Elverta substation from the south. However, with the construction of the new substation, a short segment of WAPA's line needs to be re-routed to connect to the new substation. WAPA would obtain a new easement from SMUD to accommodate the new route of the transmission line. The easement is expected to be 50' in width, and approximately 450' total length (approximately 0.52 acres total). WAPA or SMUD crews would install one new steel monopole transmission line tower approximately 160' height to WAPA construction standards, within this easement, and then string conductors and ground wires consistent with the existing transmission line along the new route. Two existing WAPA steel monopole towers that are no longer needed would be removed, and approximately 800' of transmission line would be decommissioned and demolished. The associated towers, conductors, wires, foundations, and soil would be salvaged, recycled, or disposed of depending on material and condition. Construction and demolition work may be performed by either SMUD or WAPA crews.

Environmental Requirements during Project Implementation:

- WAPA would employ air quality SOPs consistent with the Sacramento Valley Right-of-Way Maintenance Program Environmental Assessment.
- If cultural or paleontological materials are identified during implementation, work will halt within a 50-foot buffer of the discovery, contact SNR Archaeologist. Work may resume following the assessment.



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

B1.24 Property transfers

B4.10 Removal of electric transmission facilities

B4.12 Construction of 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](#) (July 13, 2026).

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.

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:

Title: Sierra Nevada Region Environmental Manager