

Categorical Exclusion (CX) Determination

Proposed Action: Construction of new crew quarters and garage building on adjacent new property to Western's Dawson County Maintenance Facility.

Description of Proposed Action: Western Area Power Administration (Western) proposes to construct a new garage building and crew quarters as an addition to existing outdated facilities located on Western's adjacent Dawson County Maintenance Facility in Glendive, Montana. The new property is a five acre parcel attached to the existing facility property.

Numbers and Titles of Categorical Exclusions Being Applied: 10 CFR 1021.410 Subpart D, Appendix B, B1.11: Installation of fencing, including that for border marking, that will not adversely affect wildlife movements or surface water flow, and B1.15: Siting, construction, and operation of support buildings and support structures within or contiguous to an already developed area.

Regulatory Requirements for CX Determination: The DOE Guidelines for Compliance with the Regulatory Requirements for the National Environmental Policy Act at 10 CFR 1021.410(b), require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review:

- 1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B to Subpart D.
- 2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- 3) 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.

Results of Review: In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021) Western has reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level NEPA review needed. Based on this review, Western has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of action listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which lists actions not normally requiring the preparation of either an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment (EA), provided the actions meet the integral elements defined in Appendix B. The proposed action fits into the categorical exclusions listed under B1.11, "Installation of fencing, including that for border marking, that will not adversely affect wildlife movements or surface water flow", and B1.15, "Siting, construction, and operation of support buildings and support structures within or contiguous to an already developed area." Western received a concurrence from the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer on our February 18, 2011 finding of No Historic Properties Affected by this action. A site review on October 26, 2011 by Western's environmental staff determined that this action will have no effect on listed species under the Endangered Species Act, candidate or species of special concern or their respective habitats.

Determination: Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is categorically excluded from further requirements of NEPA review.


Nicholas J. Stas
NEPA Compliance Officer, UGP


Date