U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: NNSA Utility Communications Easement

Program or Field Office: NNSA Production Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Amarillo, Carson, Texas

Proposed Action Description:
This project would involve relocating three utility poles and underground electrical lines. The utility poles and lines are currently located on the west side of Farm-to-Market (FM) Road 2373 and east of the Pantex Plant. They would be relocated 5 feet inside of the Pantex Plant property fence, also located on the west side of FM2373. The relocation of the power poles and electrical lines is in correlation with the Pantex Renewable Energy Project (PREP), which has been covered under the Environmental Assessment (EA) of July 2010.

Xcel would furnish, relocate and install their own poles, and Pantex Plant personnel would supply the digging. In addition to the relocation, electrical lines would be installed on one of the newly relocated power poles, cross FM2373 overhead, and tie into one of ten power poles on the east side of FM2373. The overhead electrical lines would then run north approximately 1.4 miles to the maintenance building. The ten power poles are covered in the PREP EA as part of the utilities to be supplied to the control room (maintenance building).

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.24 - Property transfers

B4.13 - Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☑ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, 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 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 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 Part 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 listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

☑ 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 segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of 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.

NEPA Compliance Officer: James Barrows Digitally signed by James Barrows DN: c=us, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Energy, ou=Pantex Plant, ou=NNSA Site Office, serialNumber=jbarrows, cn=James Barrows Date: 2013.11.06 16:00:16 -06'00' Date Determined: November 6, 2013