U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Reconstruction of the V.T. Hanlon Substation

Program or Field Office: South Dakota Maintenance Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Montrose, McCook County, South Dakota

Proposed Action Description:

East River Electric Cooperative (East River) has requested the Western Area Power Administration (Western) reconstruct East River's V.T. Hanlon 230-kV Substation including a new 230-kV bus, a new 230/115-kV transformer, two 230/69-kV transformers, and associated equipment. The existing V.T. Hanlon Substation sectionalizes Western's 230-kV Wessington Springs to Sioux Falls 230-kV transmission line. East River cited identified reliability and operating concerns including deteriorating concrete foundations and outdated equipment as reasons for the rebuild. Construction of a new substation adjacent to the existing substation is the most economical option for the Integrated System. Western will own the land, control building, 230-kV portion of the new V.T. Hanlon Substation, revenue meters, and remote terminal unit, while East River will own the 115-kV and 69-kV portions of the substation and the two 230-69-kV transformers and one 230/115-kV transformer. Construction of the new substation will involve acquisition and clearing of approximately ten acres of land adjacent to the existing substation and placement of a gravel cap, concrete foundations, and bulk electrical transmission equipment within the footprint of the new V.T. Hanlon Substation.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.11 - Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

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: MATTHEW MARSH Digitally signed by MATTHEW MARSH DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Energy, cn=MATTHEW MARSH, 0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=89001000334842 Date: 2015.03.23 13:26:28 -06'00' Date Determined: 20150323

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