

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

CRSP MC

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Falcon and Amistad Projects 2019 Rate Action Firm Power Service Rate Formula Extension

Program or Field Office: CRSP MC

Location(s): South Texas Electric Cooperative serves eight distribution cooperatives that provide service to over 170,000 members in 42 South Texas counties.

A. Brief Description of Proposed Action: The Falcon and Amistad Projects Firm Power Rate Formula will expire on June 7, 2019. Western proposes a 5-year formula rate extension through June 7, 2024, in accordance with 10 CFR 903.23(a).

B. Number and Title of the Categorical Exclusion Being Applied: (Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021)

B4.3 Rate changes for electric power, power transmission, and other products or services provided by a Power Marketing Administration that are based on a change in revenue requirements if the operations of generation projects would remain within normal operating limits

C. Regulatory Requirement in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b): 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.

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

X There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

X 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 Policy 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:

S. Clayton Palmer

Date Determined: 02/21/2019