U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Construction of an Electrical Substation and the Transmission Line Feeds for the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) (NEPA #4201.16, rev. 1)

Program or Field Office: US DOE/NNSA Production Office - Y-12 NSC

Location(s) (City/County/State): Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Proposed Action Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Agency (US DOE/NNSA) proposes an electrical utility infrastructure upgrade at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12). The purpose of this action is to 1) supply the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) with sufficient and reliable power, 2) upgrade the Y-12 electrical system with modern equipment (allows for ease of maintenance and servicing) and provide Y-12 with a reliable power supply, and 3) allow TVA to maintain the capability and reliability of their bulk transmission system. To accomplish this, NNSA will grant TVA an easement for the purpose of constructing a 161-kV substation (Pine Ridge) and two transmission lines right-of-way (ROW) corridors. One transmission line will connect to the Bull Run 161 kV feeder northeast of Y-12, and a second line will connect to the SNS 161 kV feeder southwest of Y-12. TVA will design and construct the transmission lines and substation under contract to US DOE.

The Pine Ridge substation will be located on cleared acreage south of the UPF Haul Road extension, just west of Bear Creek and Old Bear Creek Rd intersection. The proposed route for the Bull Run feeder will run west from Scarboro Rd. along the crest of Pine Ridge (parallels Bear Creek Rd, north of Y-12) to the new substation. The proposed route for the SNS feeder will run southwest from the substation to the intersection of the Haul Rd./Haul Rd. connector, then southeast to Bear Creek Road, finally east around the corner of the Walker Branch Watershed connecting to the 161 kV line southeast of the Classified Landfill. TVA will install, and service, both transmission lines and the substation.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.24 - Property transfers

B4.11 - Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

B4.12 - Construction of 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: Jack Zanger

Digitally signed by Jack Zanger
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Energy, ou=Y-12 National Security Complex, ou=CAs, ou=Pantex People, cn=Jack Zanger
Date: 2016.04.19 11:10:46 -05'00'

Date Determined: 04/19/2016

(This form will be locked for editing upon signature)