CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Entergy Arkansas, Inc. (Entergy) proposes to establish an interconnection between the system of Southwestern Power Administration and the system of Entergy in Carroll County, Arkansas. The interconnection would require Entergy to construct a new switching station at the interconnection site in addition to an approximately 5 mile length of transmission line.

PROPOSED BY:

Southwestern Power Administration - U.S. Dept. of Energy **DATE:** April 11, 2011

NUMBERS AND TITLES OF THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS BEING APPLIED:

10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, Part B4.12– Construction of electric powerlines approximately 10 miles in length or less, not integrating major new sources.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS IN 10 CFR 1021.410(B):

(1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A & B to Subpart D. For classes of action listed in Appendix A or B, the following conditions are integral elements, i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:

- (a.) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders;
- (b.) Require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities;
- (c.) Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or
- (d.) Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B. (4)).

(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.

DETERMINATION: Based on review of information conveyed to me and/or in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as Southwestern Power Administration's NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I believe that the proposed action fits within the specified class of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and therefore the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review:

Larry R. Harp,
Director, Division of Engineering and Planning
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/8/2011

EMS ASPECT IDENTIFICATION:

☒ Existing Aspect: All aspects related to project were previously identified within SWPA M 450.1

☐ New Aspect: