CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:
Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) proposes to replace the shield wire, fiber-optic cable, conductor, structures, and all associated hardware on the Idalia to Asherville 161 kV, 22 mile transmission line located in Butler and Stoddard County, Missouri.

PROPOSED BY:
Southwestern Power Administration - U.S. Dept. of Energy **DATE:** October 13, 2011

NUMBERS AND TITLES OF THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS BEING APPLIED:
10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, Part B4.6– Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including, but not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms.

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:

Darlene W. Low

Darlene W. Low
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 10/13/11

EMS ASPECT IDENTIFICATION:

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

☐ New Aspect: