CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) proposes to modify and/or construct several Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri communication tower facilities to facilitate the spectrum relocation of Federal communications systems in conjunction with the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act (CSEA, Title II of P.L. 108-494). Communication tower facility modifications and construction activities include 13 tower replacements, 16 tower removals, and 6 communication site dispositions. The 35 tower project locations, identified by state, include:

- Arkansas- Hardy, Melbourne, Paragould, Piggott, Bethel, Bull Shoals, Norfork, Piggott, Poteau Mountain, Decatur, Sulphur Rock, Van Buren, Winesburg, and Humphrey
- Oklahoma- Broken Bow Project Office, Broken Bow Powerhouse, Gore Substation, Lamar, Weleetka, Henryetta, Bald Hill, Red Fork, Moody's, Fort Gibson, Gore Radio, and Short Mountain
- Missouri- Idalia, Stockton, Selmore, Jenkins, Malden, Crane, Hercules, Springfield, and Table Rock

PROPOSED BY:

Southwestern Power Administration - U.S. Dept. of Energy **DATE:** February 14, 2011

NUMBERS AND TITLES OF THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS BEING APPLIED:

10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, Part B1.19– Siting, construction, and operation of microwave and radio communication towers and associated facilities, if the towers and associated facilities would not be in an area of great visual value.

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 <u>must not</u>:

(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: 2-15-2011

EMS ASPECT IDENTIFICATION:

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

☐ New Aspect: