



A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

East River PUC Application: WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

5/8/2024



WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

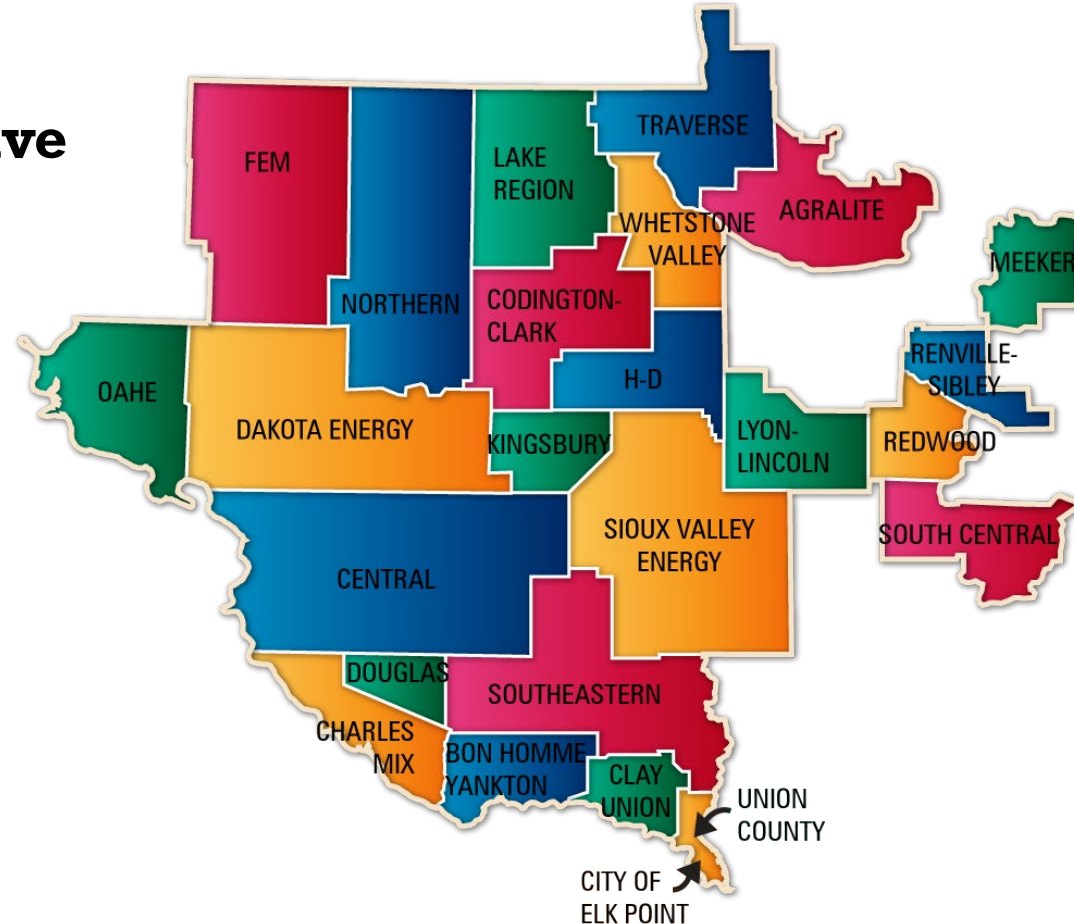
System Members



Transmission Cooperative

25 Member Systems

40,700 Square Miles

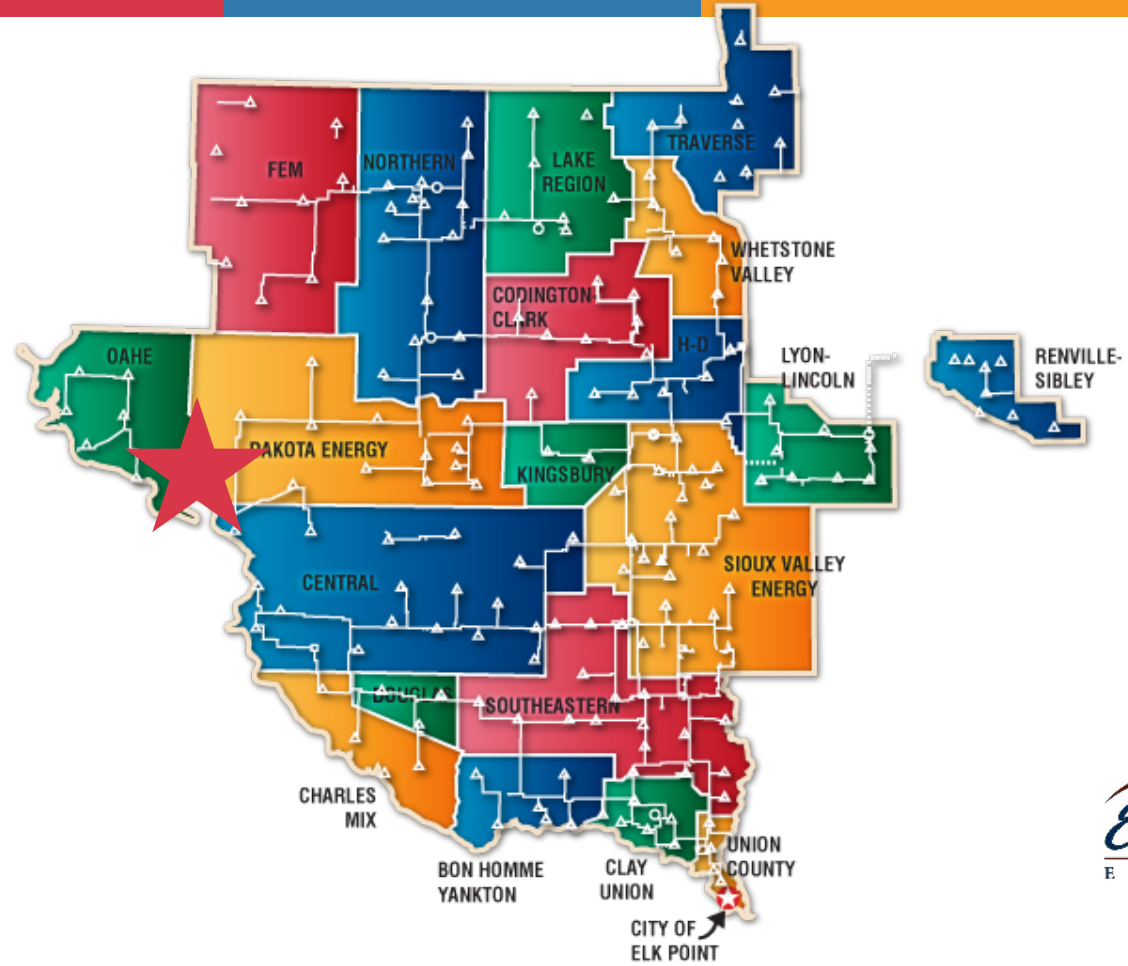


WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

East River Electric Power Cooperative System

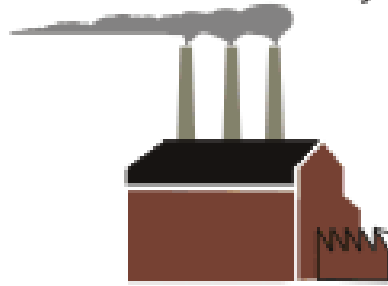


265+ Substations
3,500+ Miles of
Transmission Line



Generation

Power Plant
Generates Electricity

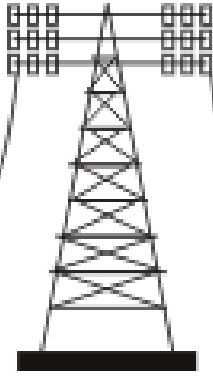


Transformer
Steps Up Voltage
For Transmission



Transmission

Transmission Lines
Carry Electricity
Long Distances

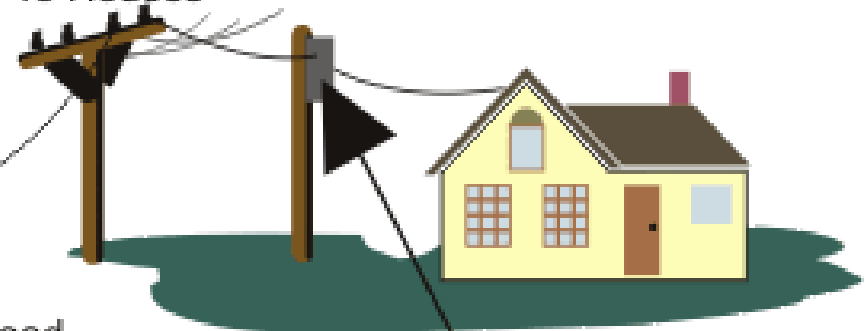


Neighborhood
Transformer
Steps Down Voltage



Distribution

Distribution Lines
Carry Electricity
To Houses



Transformers On Poles Step
Down Electricity Before It
Enters Houses

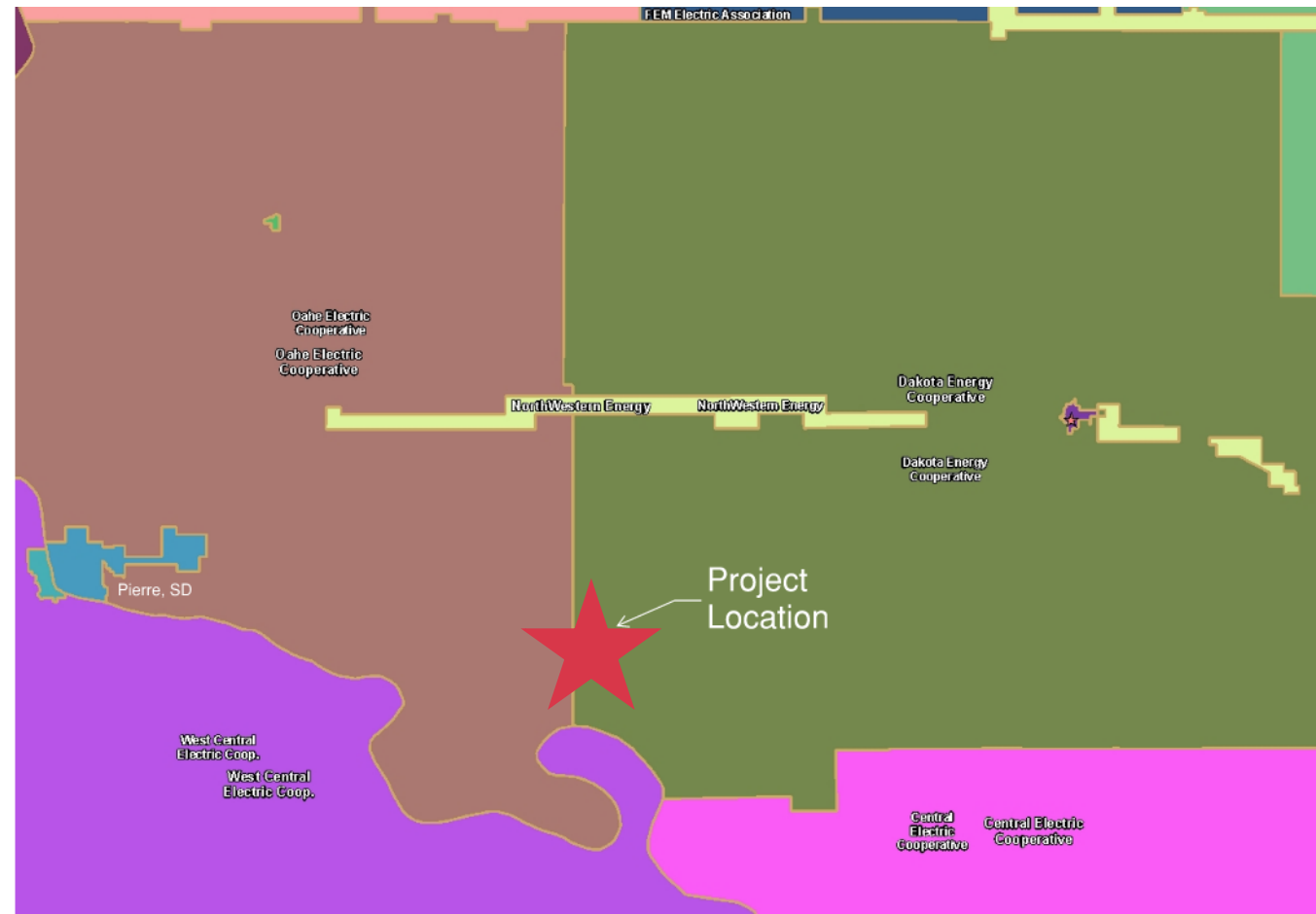


WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

Project Need



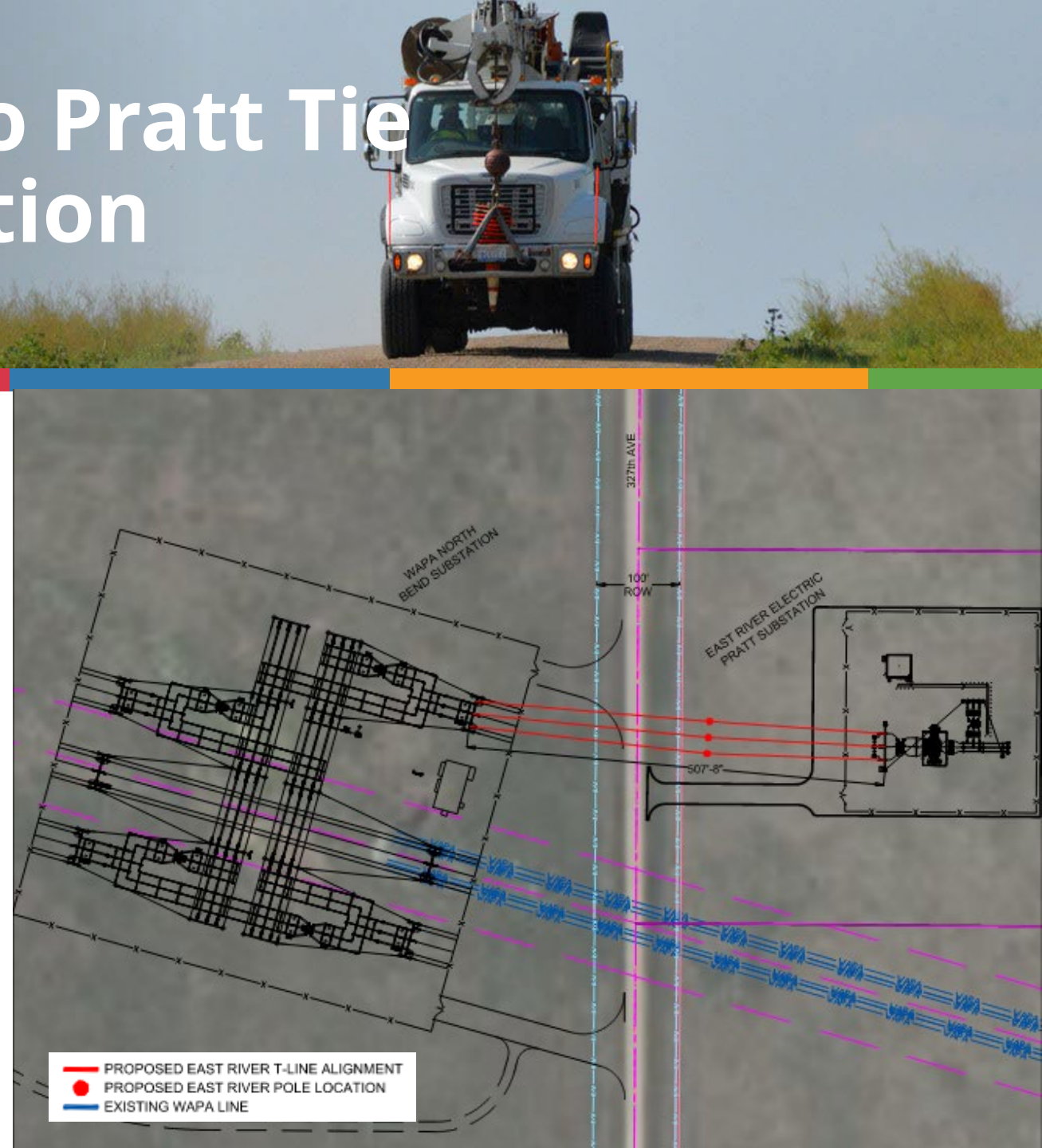
- East River is proposing to construct a 230,000 volt (230 kV) overhead electric transmission line to serve its membership in Hughes and Hyde Counties. This transmission line is located in Section 15/16, T110N, R37W, Hyde County, SD.
- This project is vital for system reliability and load growth in our Member's Oahe Electric, Dakota Energy and Central Electric's service territories.



WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

Project Details

- 500' of 230 kV Transmission Line between WAPA's North Bend Substation and East River Electric's Pratt Substation
- Pratt 230-69 kV Substation to consist of a 230 kV line terminal, a step-down transformer and a 69 kV line terminal used to serve load.



WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

Site Selection

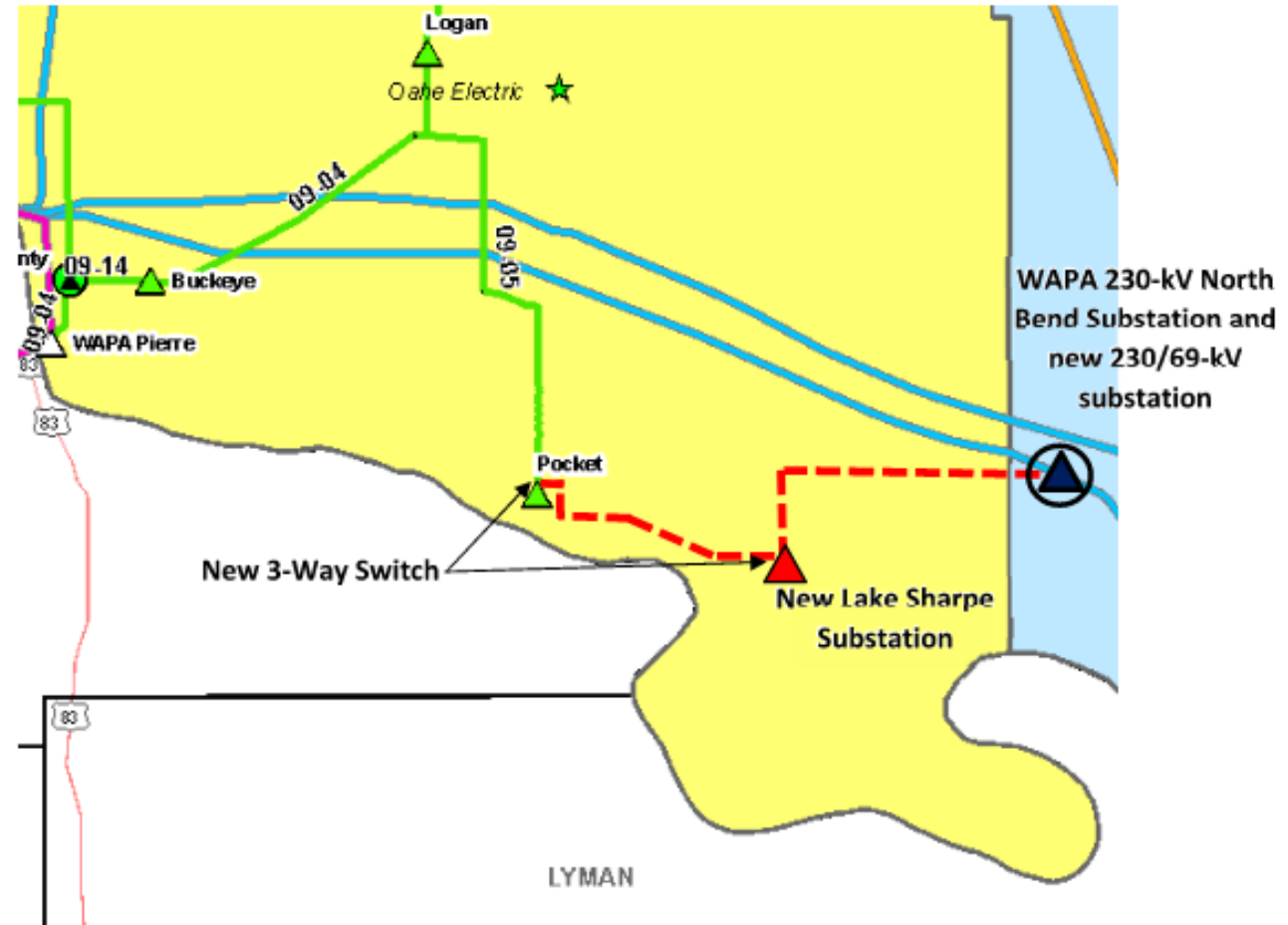
- WAPA's 230 kV North Bend Substation was developed to provide interconnect of a wind farm facility.
- To provide load serving capacity for East River load, the WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie line and the Pratt 230-69 kV Substation were sited as close as possible to WAPA's 230 kV North Bend transmission substation.



WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

Project Need

- Project to provide transmission load serving capability in an area of East River's service territory currently devoid of transmission sources



WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

USDA RURAL UTILITY SERVICE APPROVAL – WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Line



Rural Development April 30, 2024

Rural Utilities Service

STOP 1560, Rm 5165
1400 Independence
Ave., SW
Washington, DC
20250-1560

Bob Sahr, CEO
East River Electric Power Cooperative
PO Box 227
Madison, SD 57042

RE: SD 43 Minnehaha - Amendment #17 to 2023-2026 CWP

Dear Mr. Sahr:

Amendment #17: (Code 805-0006) to construct the WAPA North Bend to Pratt tie at an estimated cost of \$766,000 to the Cooperative's 2023-2026 Construction Work Plan has been reviewed and is hereby approved, **contingent upon a written environmental finding by the Office of Loan Origination and Approval in Washington, DC. No construction should start until such approval is received.**

The amendment is being electronically submitted to the Office of Loan Origination and Approval in Washington for its records and further use.

This approval does not pertain to the use of materials not included in Informational Publication 202-1 List of Materials Acceptable for Use on Systems of RUS Electrification Borrowers.

Construction or modification of any facilities included in the CWP is subject to the conditions and requirements of 7 CFR Parts 1700-1799. All construction must conform with provisions of the latest edition of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) and all local, more stringent codes.

It is the Board's responsibility to determine whether loan funds and/or general funds are available for the proposed construction. Particular reference should be made to 7 CFR 1721.1 requiring RUS approval of the Construction Work Plan or amendments as a condition to loan fund advances.

Please note that this approval hereby amends East River Electric's current RUS loan to include these projects thus making them eligible for funding.

Sincerely,
**THOMAS
JONES**

Thomas Jones
RUS General Field Representative

Digitally signed by
THOMAS JONES
Date: 2024.04.30
19:44:31 -05'00'

Method of Financing

Loan Funds YES

General Funds _____

Contributions in Aid _____

Status of Borrowers Environmental Report Attached

Estimated Cost \$766,000

Engineering Support Attached System map and online

Registered Engineer _____ 9754
(as required) (signature) Mark D. Hoffman (P.E. number)

Requested by Robert Sahr Date 12/19/23
General Manager Robert Sahr

*Approved by THOMAS JONES Digitally signed by THOMAS JONES
RUS, GFR Date: 2024.04.30 19:45:27 -05'00'

Subject to BER approval? Yes X No _____

Status of Construction: Construction on the project will not begin until the approval of this amendment and subsequent BER approval.



WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

USDA RURAL UTILITY SERVICE APPROVAL – WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Line



USDA Rural Development Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Applicant Name: East River Electric Power Cooperative Inc. (SD 43) **Project Name:** WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie - Amendment 17

Agency Program: Electric Program

Federal Action: Loan Grant Guarantee Construction Work Plan or Loan/System Design

General Project Location: Hyde County, SD

Project Description: This new 0.25-mile long 230 kV line will provide a tie line from a new interconnection with WAPA North Bend the new East River Pratt substation (loan code 1005-0204). This project will be built with 795 ACSR to handle proposed and future area loads.

Purpose and Need: The purpose of the new tie line is to strengthen East River's transmission system in the Hughes and Hyde County areas within Oahe Electric Cooperative and Dakota Energy Cooperative's service territories.

Level of Review: 1970.53 1970.54 **List Appropriate CE(s):** (c)(2)(iii) **ER Prepared?** Yes No

Resource Summary: **Conditions?**

Historic Properties: No historic properties affected in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1).

ESA Listed Species and/or Critical Habitat: No Effect

Wetlands Protection: No Wetlands Identified or Present

Floodplains: No Floodplain present

Formally Classified Lands: No Formally Classified Lands Present

Streams, Lakes, and Rivers: No Streams, Lakes or Rivers Identified or Present

Coral Reef/Protected Coastal Habitat: No Coral Reef/Protected Aquatic Habitat Present

Important Farmland: Activity not subject to FPPA

Questions:

Is the proposal located within a Barrier Resources System (CBRA) unit? Yes No

Is CZMA consistency concurrence required, and if so, has the concurrence been issued, objected to, or presumed? Yes No

Does the project threaten a violation of local, state, or federal statutory, regulatory, or permitting requirements? Yes No

Is the proposal located within EPA designated Non Attainment or Maintenance Areas for Air Quality Criteria Pollutants? Yes No

Does the proposal result in the production of unpermitted hazardous materials or waste, or consist of construction of a new RCRA hazardous materials handling facility? Yes No

Does the proposal have any Environmental Justice concerns or disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations or low-income populations? Yes No

Is the proposal controversial for environmental reasons? Yes No

Is the proposal controversial for other than environmental reasons? Yes No

Is the proposal located in a wellhead-protection area? Yes No



USDA Rural Development Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Applicant Name: East River Electric Power Cooperative Inc. (SD 43) **Project Name:** WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie - Amendment 17

Will the project adversely affect a sole source aquifer? Yes No

Is the project located within a watershed covered by watershed management plan? Yes No

Justification & Special Considerations:

Project Conditions to be placed in Loan and Construction Documents:
Applicant is responsible for acquiring the necessary permits for construction and operation of the projects and adhering to all environmental commitments made regarding construction and maintenance of the proposed projects. An inadvertent discovery provision, developed in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13(b) and (c), will be included as a condition of obligation in order to address any historic properties which might be inadvertently discovered or affected during project construction.

Finding: 1970.53 w/o conditions 1970.53 w/ conditions 1970.54 w/o conditions 1970.54 w/ conditions

Upon review of the project description, Environmental Report (ER) and all supporting documentation, I find that the proposal meets the criteria established in §1970.54, "Categorical Exclusions Involving Small-scale Development" and is consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 1508.1(d). The proposed activity does not have any extraordinary circumstances, nor will it individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment; therefore, neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement is required as proposed.

CERTIFICATION

NICHOLAS DAWSON (Affiliate) <small>Digitally signed by NICHOLAS DAWSON (Affiliate) Date: 2024.04.24 12:50:07 -0400'</small>	Apr 24, 2024
Signature of Preparer	Date
Nicholas Dawson	Environmental Protection Specialist
Name of Preparer	Preparer Title
ROBERT DEEMS <small>Digitally signed by ROBERT DEEMS Date: 2024.05.01 08:49:25 -0400'</small>	May 1, 2024
Signature of Agency EPS or SEC	Date
Robert Deems	Branch Chief
Name of Agency EPS or SEC	Agency EPS or SEC Title
MARK BARTHOLOMEW <small>Digitally signed by MARK BARTHOLOMEW Date: 2024.05.01 10:21:03 -0400'</small>	May 1, 2024
Signature of Agency Approving Official	Date
Mark Bartholomew	Supervisory General Field Representative
Name of Agency Approving Official	Agency Approving Official Title



WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

USDA RURAL UTILITY SERVICE APPROVAL – Pratt 230 kV Substation



Rural Development May 1, 2024

Rural Utilities Service

STOP 1560, Rm 5165
1400 Independence
Ave., SW
Washington, DC
20250-1560

Bob Sahr, CEO
East River Electric Power Cooperative
PO Box 227
Madison, SD 57042

RE: SD 43 Minnehaha - Amendment #18 to 2023-2026 CWP

Dear Mr. Sahr:

Amendment #18: (Code 1005-0204) to construct the Pratt Substation at an estimated cost of \$5,600,000 to the Cooperative's 2023-2026 Construction Work Plan has been reviewed and is hereby approved, **contingent upon a written environmental finding by the Office of Loan Origination and Approval in Washington, DC. No construction should start until such approval is received.**

The amendment is being electronically submitted to the Office of Loan Origination and Approval in Washington for its records and further use.

This approval does not pertain to the use of materials not included in Informational Publication 202-1 List of Materials Acceptable for Use on Systems of RUS Electrification Borrowers. Construction or modification of any facilities included in the CWP is subject to the conditions and requirements of 7 CFR Parts 1700-1799. All construction must conform with provisions of the latest edition of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) and all local, more stringent codes.

It is the Board's responsibility to determine whether loan funds and/or general funds are available for the proposed construction. Particular reference should be made to 7 CFR 1721.1 requiring RUS approval of the Construction Work Plan or amendments as a condition to loan fund advances.

Please note that this approval hereby amends East River Electric's current RUS loan to include these projects thus making them eligible for funding.

Sincerely,

THOMAS
JONES

Thomas Jones
RUS General Field Representative

Digitally signed by THOMAS
JONES
Date: 2024.05.01 12:26:56
-05'00'

Method of Financing

Loan Funds YES
General Funds _____
Contributions in Aid _____

Status of Borrowers Environmental Report Attached

Estimated Cost \$5,600,000

Engineering Support Attached Station Drawings, Plat, System One-Line

Registered Engineer _____ 9754
(as required) (signature) Mark D. Hoffman (P.E. number)

Requested by Robert Sahr Date 12/19/23
CEO/General Manager Robert Sahr

*Approved by THOMAS JONES Digitally signed by THOMAS JONES
RUS, GFR Date: 2024.05.01 12:27:24 -05'00'

Subject to BER approval? Yes X No _____

Status of Construction: Construction on the project will not begin until the approval of this amendment and subsequent BER approval.



WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

USDA RURAL UTILITY SERVICE APPROVAL – Pratt 230 kV Substation



USDA Rural Development Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Applicant Name: East River Electric Power Cooperative Inc (SD43) **Project Name:** Pratt Substation-Amendment 18

Agency Program: Electric Program

Federal Action: Loan Grant Guarantee Construction Work Plan or Loan/System Design

General Project Location: West of the 5th Principal Meridian, Hyde County, South Dakota

Project Description: Pratt Substation will be a new 230-69kV substation. This will feature a new 230 kV line terminal, a new 230-69kV transformer and a 69 kV terminal built for a future ring to provide 69 kV to other member cooperatives.

Purpose and Need: To accommodate planned and projected load growth, as well as to mitigate planning criteria violations.

Level of Review: 1970.53 1970.54 **List Appropriate CE(s):** 7 CFR 1970.54(c) (1) **ER Prepared?** Yes No

Resource Summary: **Conditions?**

Historic Properties: No historic properties affected in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1).

ESA Listed Species and/or Critical Habitat: May Affect - Not Likely to Adversely Affect

Wetlands Protection: Wetlands Present - General Permit Required

Floodplains: No Floodplain present

Formally Classified Lands: Formally Classified Lands Present with no Conditions

Streams, Lakes, and Rivers: No Streams, Lakes or Rivers Identified or Present

Coral Reef/Protected Coastal Habitat: No Coral Reef/Protected Aquatic Habitat Present

Important Farmlands: Activity not subject to FPPA

Questions:

Is the proposal located within a Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) unit? Yes No

Is CZMA consistency concurrence required? Yes No If so, has the concurrence been issued or presumed? Yes No

Does the project threaten a violation of local, state, or federal statutory, regulatory, or permitting requirements? Yes No

Is the proposal located within EPA designated Non Attainment or Maintenance Areas for Air Quality Criteria Pollutants? Yes No

Does the proposal result in the production of unpermitted hazardous materials or waste, or consist of construction of a new RCRA hazardous materials handling facility? Yes No

Does the proposal have any Environmental Justice concerns or disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations or low-income populations? Yes No

Is the proposal controversial for environmental reasons? Yes No

Is the proposal controversial for other than environmental reasons? Yes No

Is the proposal located in a wellhead-protection area? Yes No

USDA Rural Development Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Applicant Name: East River Electric Power Cooperative Inc (SD43) **Project Name:** Pratt Substation-Amendment 18

Will the project adversely affect a sole source aquifer? Yes No

Is the project located within a watershed covered by watershed management plan? Yes No

Justification & Special Considerations:

Project Conditions to be placed in Loan and Construction Documents:

Applicant is responsible for acquiring the necessary permits for construction and operation of the projects and adhering to all environmental commitments made regarding construction and maintenance of the proposed projects. An inadvertent discovery provision, developed in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13(b) and (c), will be included as a condition of obligation in order to address any historic properties which might be inadvertently discovered or affected during project construction.

ESA Listed Species and/or Critical Habitat Conditions:

Tree clearing restriction from April-October (to avoid impacts to Tricolored Bat, Northern Long-Eared Bat, Piping Plover, and Red Ruffa Knot). Avoid impacts to water resources (to avoid impacts to Pallid Sturgeon). To avoid impacts to Whooping Cranes: incorporate measures to prevent avian electrocutions, avoid construction disturbance during bird migration in the spring and fall, and leave the area if Whooping Cranes are spotted during construction (return once the birds have left the area on their own).

Wetlands Protection Conditions: Minimize disturbance to wetland areas. Poles that do not span wetlands will be augured.

Formally Classified Lands Conditions: Project will have no impact to adjacent State-Owned Land. The Project will be contained within Applicant owned land, as well as along an existing public ROW and previously disturbed road ditch.

Finding: 1970.53 w/o conditions 1970.53 w/ conditions 1970.54 w/o conditions 1970.54 w/ conditions

Upon review of the project description, Environmental Report (ER) and all supporting documentation, I find that the proposal meets the criteria established in §1970.54, "Categorical Exclusions Involving Small-scale Development" and is consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 1508.1(d) provided the applicant complies with the project conditions identified above. With inclusion of the project conditions identified, the proposed activity does not have any extraordinary circumstances, nor will it individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment; therefore, neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement is required as proposed.

CERTIFICATION

Arianna Harding Digitally signed by Arianna Harding Date: 2024.04.29 13:36:50 -04'00' **Apr 29, 2024**

Signature of Preparer **Date**

Arianna Harding **Environmental Protection Specialist**

Name of Preparer **Preparer Title**

USDA Rural Development Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Applicant Name: East River Electric Power Cooperative Inc (SD43) **Project Name:** Pratt Substation-Amendment 18

ROBERT DEEMS Digitally signed by ROBERT DEEMS Date: 2024.05.03 07:32:58 -04'00' **May 3, 2024**

Signature of Agency EPS or SEC **Date**

Robert Deems **Branch Chief**

Name of Agency EPS or SEC **Agency EPS or SEC Title**

MARK BARTHOLOMEW Digitally signed by MARK BARTHOLOMEW Date: 2024.05.06 10:53:45 -04'00' **May 6, 2024**

Signature of Agency Approving Official **Date**

Mark Bartholomew **Supervisory General Field Representative**

Name of Agency Approving Official **Agency Approving Official Title**



WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation

Easement Acquisition for the area



- Easement Acquisition for the project was 100% successful.
- Western Area Power Administration and private landowners cooperated with property sales and granting easements for the project

WAPA North Bend to Pratt Tie Pratt 230 kV Substation



Questions?