RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to replace broken crossarms at structures 32/3, 63/2 and cross brace repair at structure 31/2 along the existing Blythe - Knob 161-kV transmission line. Western will access structures using crew trucks and pickup trucks along existing access roads. This work is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the bulk electrical system.

The attached maps show the project area is situated within Sections 15 & 21 Township 11 South Range 20 East & Section 10 Township 16 South Range 21 East on the San Bernardino Meridian, Imperial County, California. The corresponding U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic maps are Ogilby and Buzzards Peak, California. This work is planned to begin the week of April 18, 2011.

Categorical Exclusion Applied: 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B1.3: "Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structures, right-of-way, infrastructures (e.g. pathways, roads and railroads), vehicles and equipment and localized vegetation and pest control during which operations may be suspended and resumed."

B. **Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b):**

1. The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to Subpart D.

   a. The proposed action was reviewed for the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, and all applicable Department of Energy Orders.

   b. The proposed action does not require the siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities.

   c. The proposed action does not disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminates, or CERLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled and unpermitted releases.

   d. The proposed action was reviewed and surveyed for impacts to cultural and sensitive biological resources. Cultural and sensitive biological resources have been determined to not be affected.

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.

C. **Determination:** Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

D. **Special Conditions:**

1. **A qualified biological monitor will be present to conduct tortoise monitoring for the entire project. If a tortoise is found, there will be no handling.**
2. **We will need a report from the monitor regarding any desert tortoise encounters.**

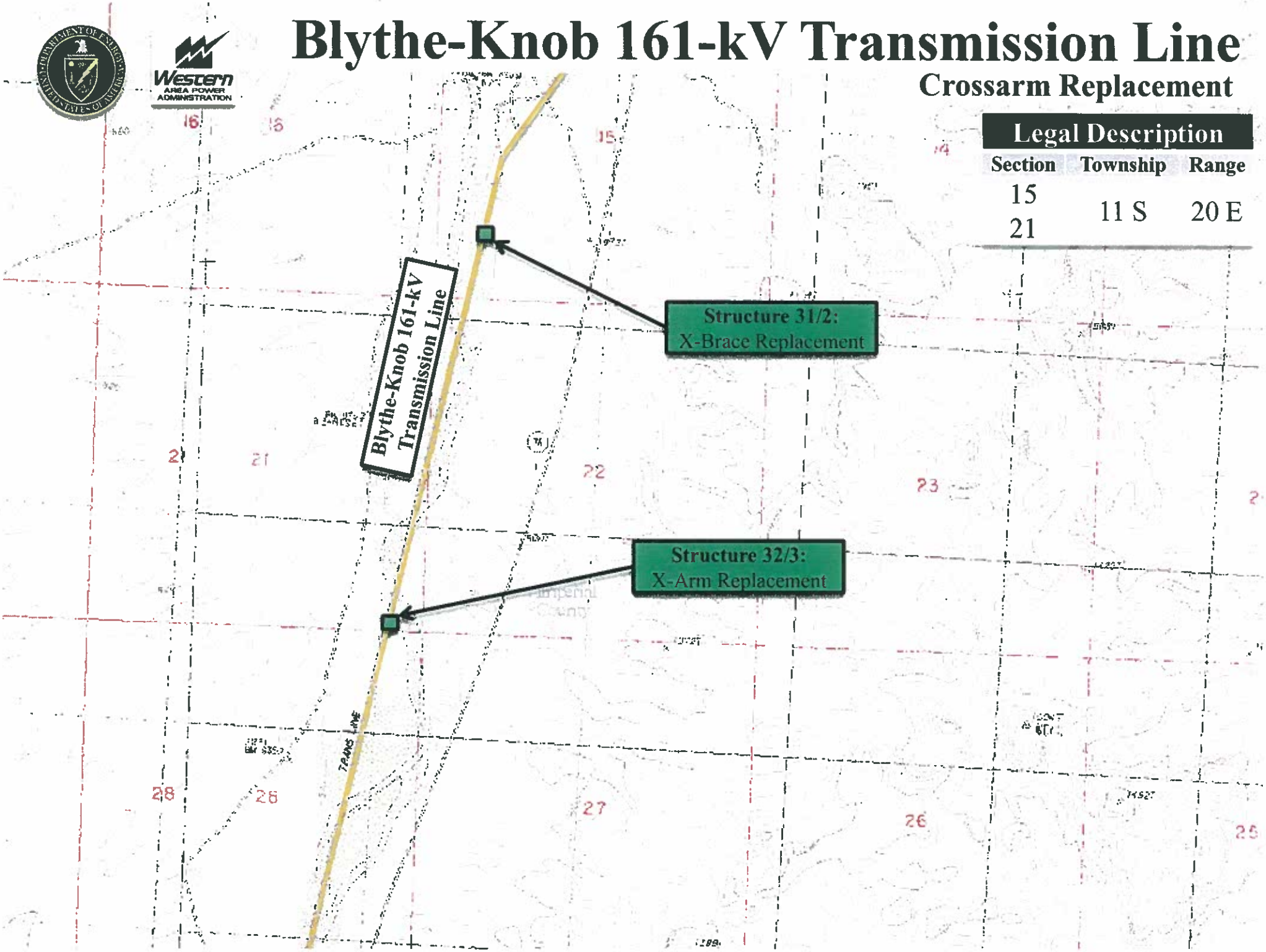
John R. Holt

John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

3/21/11
Date

Blythe-Knob 161-kV Transmission Line

Crossarm Replacement

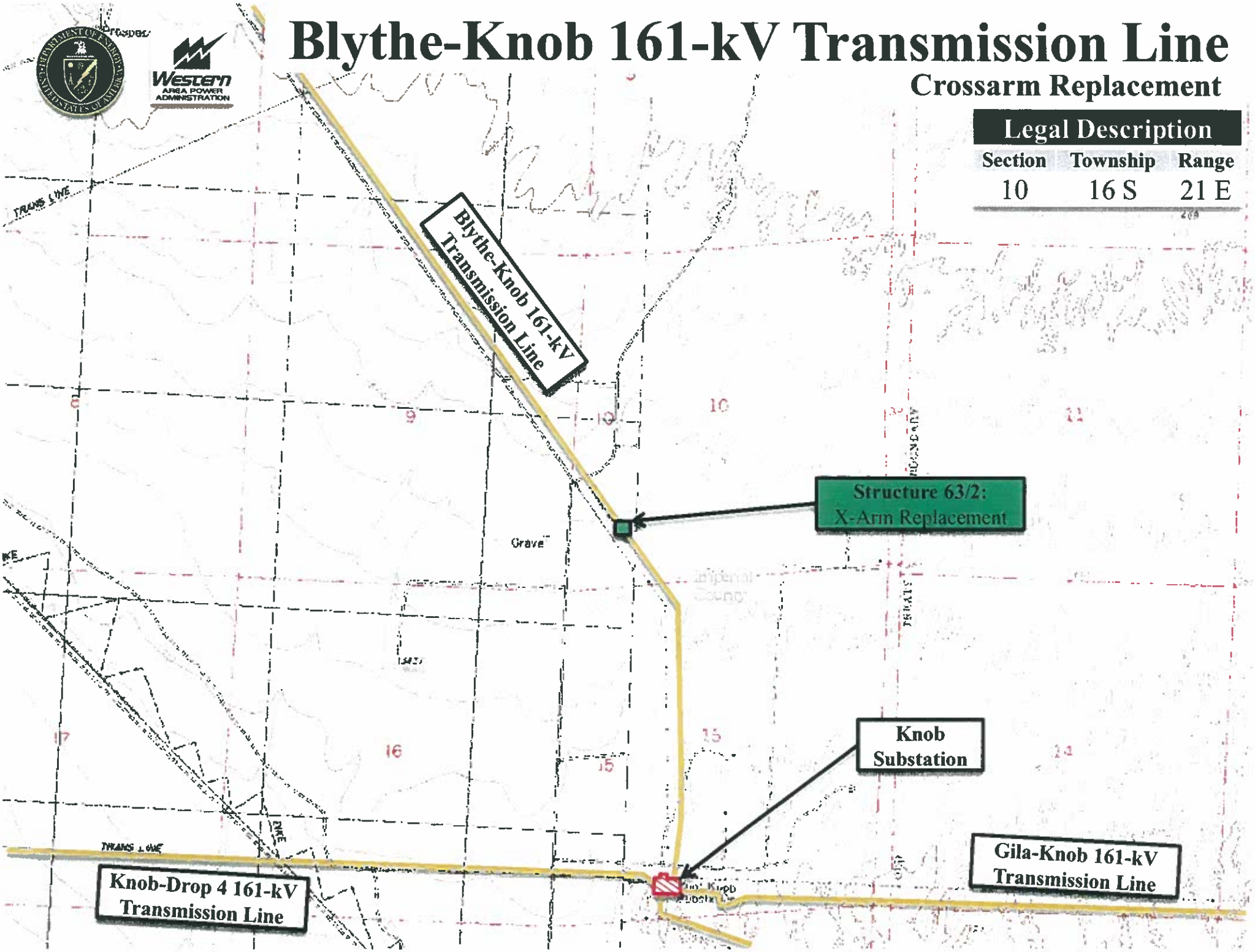


Legal Description

Section	Township	Range
15 21	11 S	20 E

Blythe-Knob 161-kV Transmission Line

Crossarm Replacement

Legal Description

Section	Township	Range
10	16 S	21 E