RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to do geologic borings within our right-of-way at structures 18/2, 21/2, 25/1, 37/5 and 41/5 along the existing Casa Grande-Empire 115-kV transmission line. This project involves accessing each bore hole location with a auger/drill rig and light crew trucks, setting up the drill rig, drilling, collecting soil samples and breaking down the drilling setup. Western will be using existing access roads and vehicles such as pickup trucks, crew trucks, backhoes and bucket trucks to bring personnel and equipment to the work areas.

The attached maps show the project areas situated within Sections 7, 20 Township 7 South Range 6 East, Section 4 Township 8 South Range 6 East Section 25 & 28 Township 9 South 7 East on the Gila & Salt River Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona The corresponding U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic maps are Chuichu, Arizona This work is planned to begin in September of 2010.

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B,B3.1: "Onsite and offsite characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include but are not limited to site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include but are not limited to:...(f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock or contaminants..."

C. **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. This action falls under the Programmatic Agreement for routine maintenance activities, type II activities.

   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.

D. 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.

E. Special Conditions:

1. Stay within 10 meters north (about 30') of structure 25/1 or anywhere to the east/west or south is fine for the equipment and bore hole.

Mary Barger
for John R. ~~Holt~~
NEPA Compliance Officer

August 19, 2015
Date