RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to conduct erosion control between the new Davis Dam 69-kV and upper 230-kV switchyards. This will consist of building two (2) 3 ft. x 3 ft. x 12 ft. gabions, which are rock-filled with a 4-8 inch riprap stacked one on top of the other on the north ends of the switchyards. The 6-ft. x 6-ft. x 6-ft. washed out area shall be filled and compacted with native soil and a high survivability filter fabric spread out beneath the gabions. Western will be using existing access roads and vehicles such as backhoes, dozers, bucket trucks, crew trucks and pickup trucks to bring personnel and equipment to the work areas. This work is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the bulk electrical system.

The attached map shows the project area location. The legal description is Section 19 Township 21 North, Range 21 West on the Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian (USGS Davis Dam, AZ-NV 7.5' maps). This work is planned to begin the week of August 16, 2010.

B. **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. Custodial services are activities to preserve facility appearance, working condition and sanitation such as cleaning, window washing, lawn mowing, trash collection, painting and snow removal. Routine maintenance activities corrective (that is repair), preventative and predictive are required to maintain and preserve buildings, structures, infrastructures and equipment in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designated purpose....."

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.

   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. This work was completed during a project for the new 69-kV switchyard. 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.

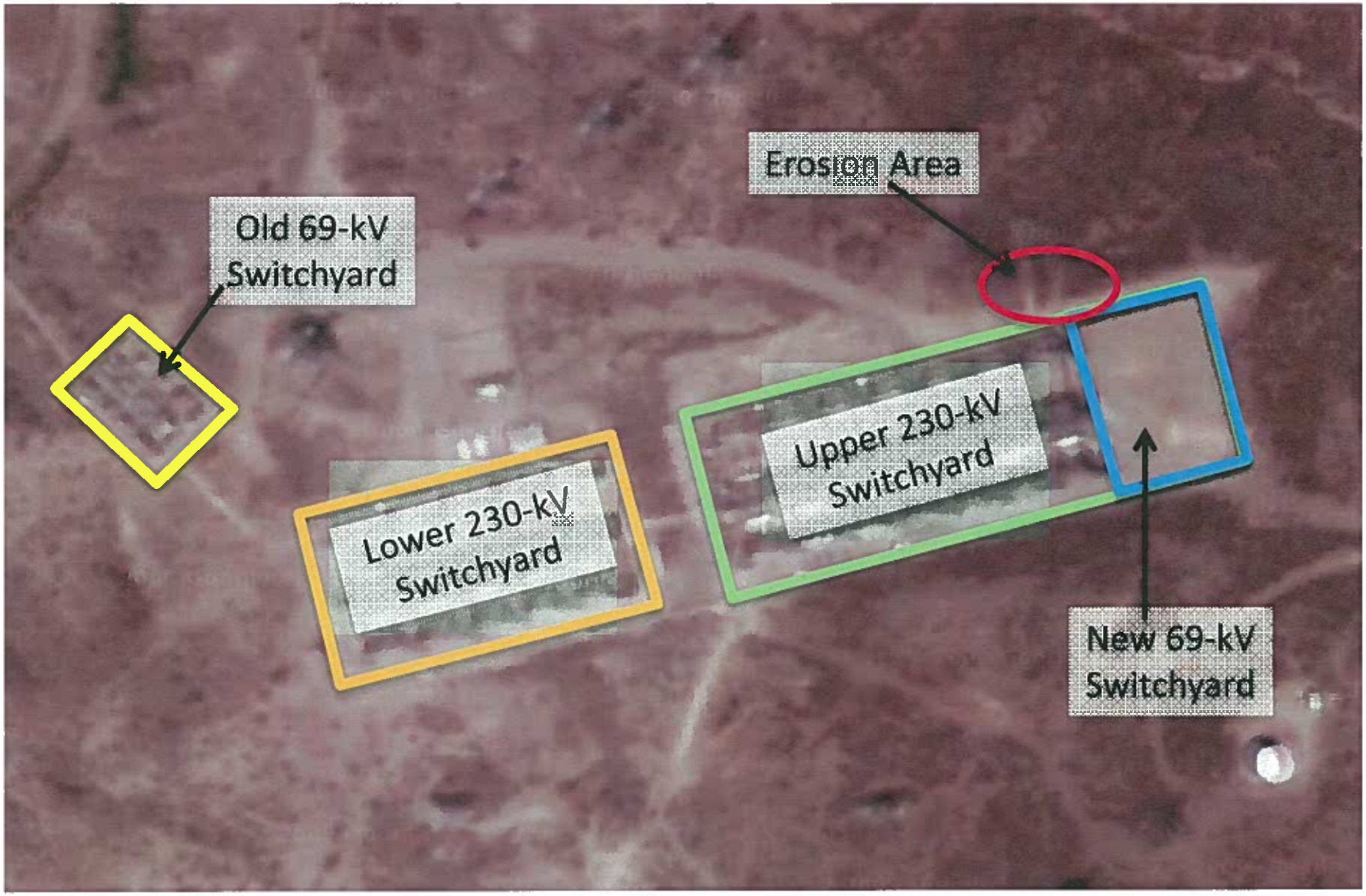
D. <u>Determination:</u> Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other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

E. <u>Special Conditions:</u> NONE

John R. Holt

John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

8/12/10
Date

Davis Dam New and Old 69-kV, Lower 230-kV and Upper 230-kV Switchyards

Western Area Power Administration
An agency of the U.S. Department of Energy