RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to install a mid-span (i.e., interset) structure between structures 141/1 & 141/2 of the existing Davis Dam–Prescott 230-kV transmission line. The proposed undertaking entails constructing a 100-foot-tall steel H-frame near the midpoint of the 1900-foot-long span between two lattice tower structures. The H-frame will be set in holes 12 feet deep and two feet in diameter for stability. We will use existing access roads and vehicles such as pickup trucks, crew trucks, backhoes and bucket trucks to bring personnel and equipment to the work area. This work is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the bulk electrical system. This winter, winds blew the conductor sideways and made contact with an adjacent light pole.

The attached map shows the project area location. The legal description is Section 4 Township 14 North, Range 2 West on the Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian (USGS Prescott 7.5' map). This work is planned for the week of June 28, 2010 and expected to take a week to complete.

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B4.13: "Reconstruction (upgrading or rebuilding) and/or minor relocation of existing electric power lines approximately 20 miles in length or less to enhance environmental and land use values. Such actions include relocations to avoid right-of-way encroachments, resolve conflict with property development, accommodate road/highway construction, allow for the construction of facilities such as canals and pipelines, or reduce existing impacts to environmentally sensitive areas."

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.

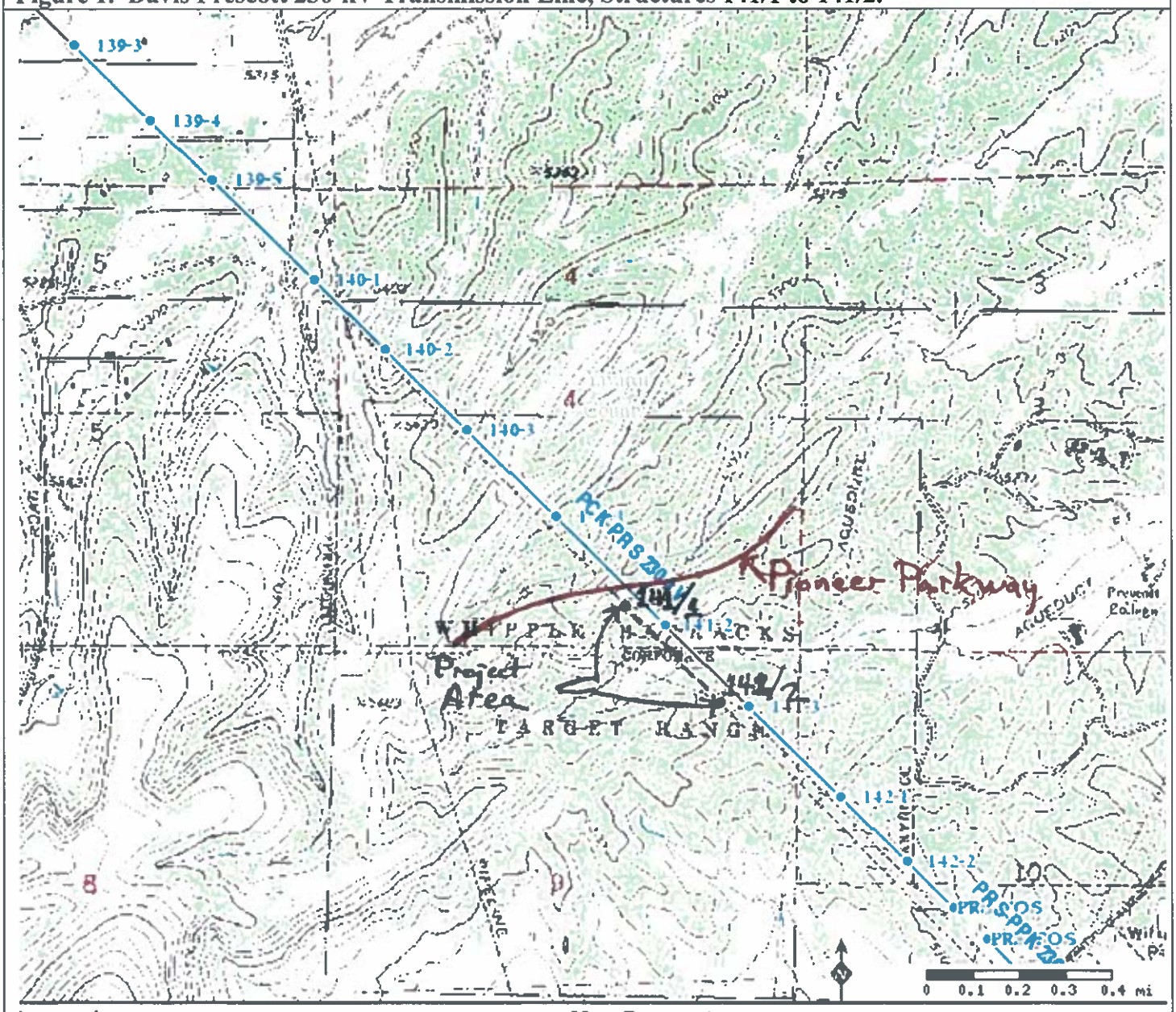
D. Determination: Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory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

E. Special Conditions: NONE

John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

6/10/10
Date

Figure 1. Davis Prescott 230-kV Transmission Line, Structures 141/1 to 141/2.



Legend

Map Parameters

UTM ZONE 12, NAD83
Scale 1:24,000

minx: 362791 *maxx:* 367401
miny: 3830255 *maxy:* 3833629

5/25/2010 6:00 P.M.

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