RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes on removing 4 existing 345-kV circuit breakers and installing 4 new 362-kV circuit breakers as well as adding new power and control cables in existing cable trenches to the control building. Excavation of the old trench to a minimum depth of 18 inches and 3 feet wide will be required. The disturbed ground will be use as backfill. The proposed action within the fenced area of the Flagstaff Substation is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the bulk electrical system. Western will use existing access roads and vehicles such as pickup trucks, crew trucks, backhoes, trailer trucks and bucket trucks to bring personnel and equipment to the work area.

The attached map shows the project area location. The legal description is Section 24 Township 21 North, Range 9 East on the Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian (USGS Winona 7.5' maps). This work is planned for the week of March 1, 2011 and will be completed by December 31, 2011.

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B2.5: "Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including, but not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms."

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. 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:

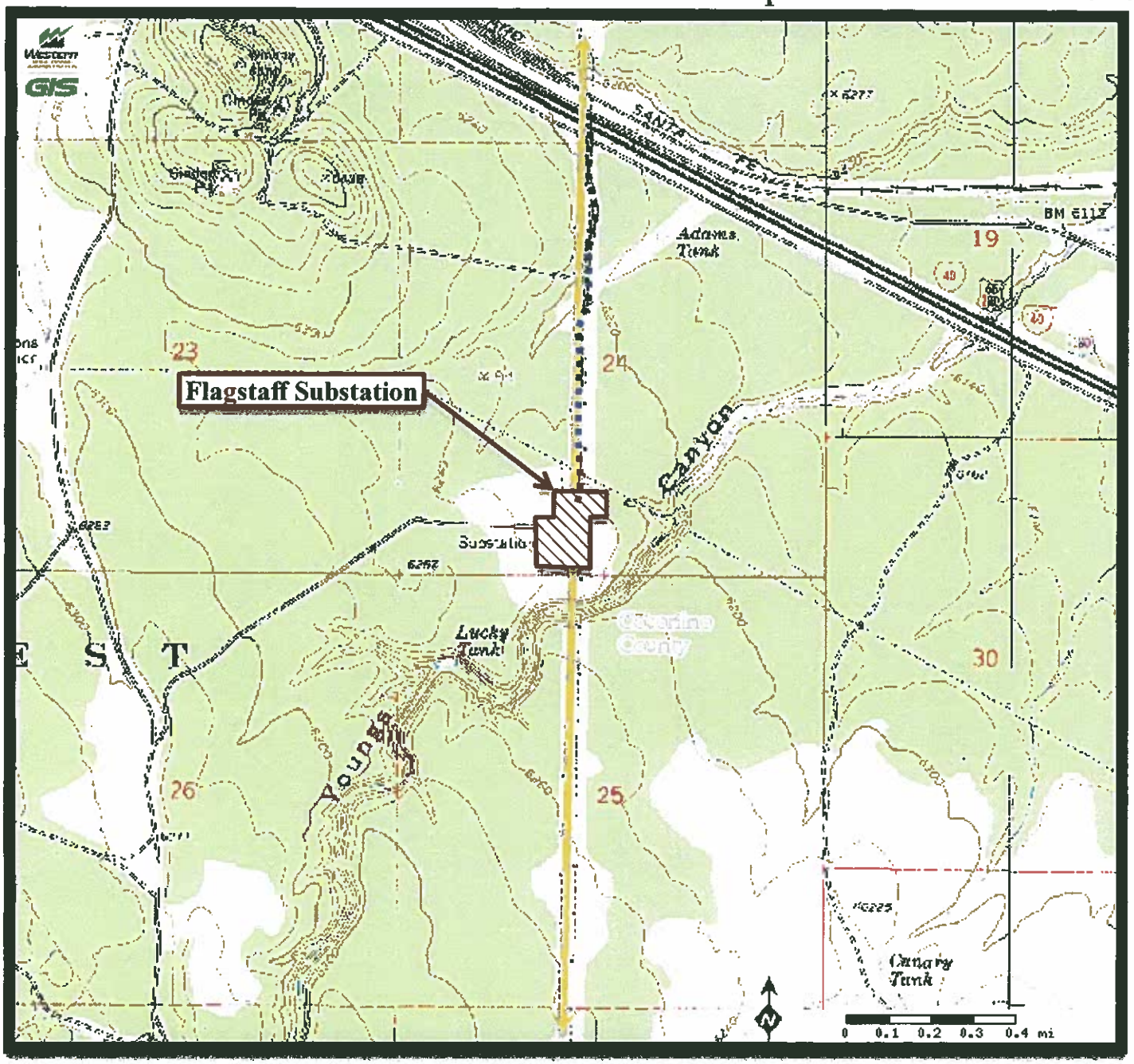
1. Circuit breakers being removed must be drained and the oil disposed of properly.

Acting for John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

2/18/11
Date

Flagstaff Substation

Circuit Breaker Replacement and Power and Control Cable Addition



Legal Description

Section	Township	Range
24	21 N	9 E

- Transmission Line
- Substation
- Access Road