RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to conduct access road maintenance between structures 180/1 & 188/2 of the existing Mead-Perkins 500-kV transmission line. This will consist of blading and leveling out areas of the existing access road using dozers, bucket trucks, crew trucks and pickup trucks. This work is needed to facilitate avian nest removal at structures 180/1, 182/2, 186/2 & 188/2. This work is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the bulk electrical system.

The attached map shows the project areas are situated within Sections 13 & 24 Township 9 North Range 8 West, Sections 19, 30 & 31Township 9 North Range 7 West & Section 5, 8, 16, 17, 21, 27 & 28 Township 8 North Range West on the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Yavapai County, Arizona. Work will be conducted within Western's right of way. The corresponding U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic map is Date Creek Ranch SE & Congress SW, Arizona. This work is planned to begin the week of May 10, 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."

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:**

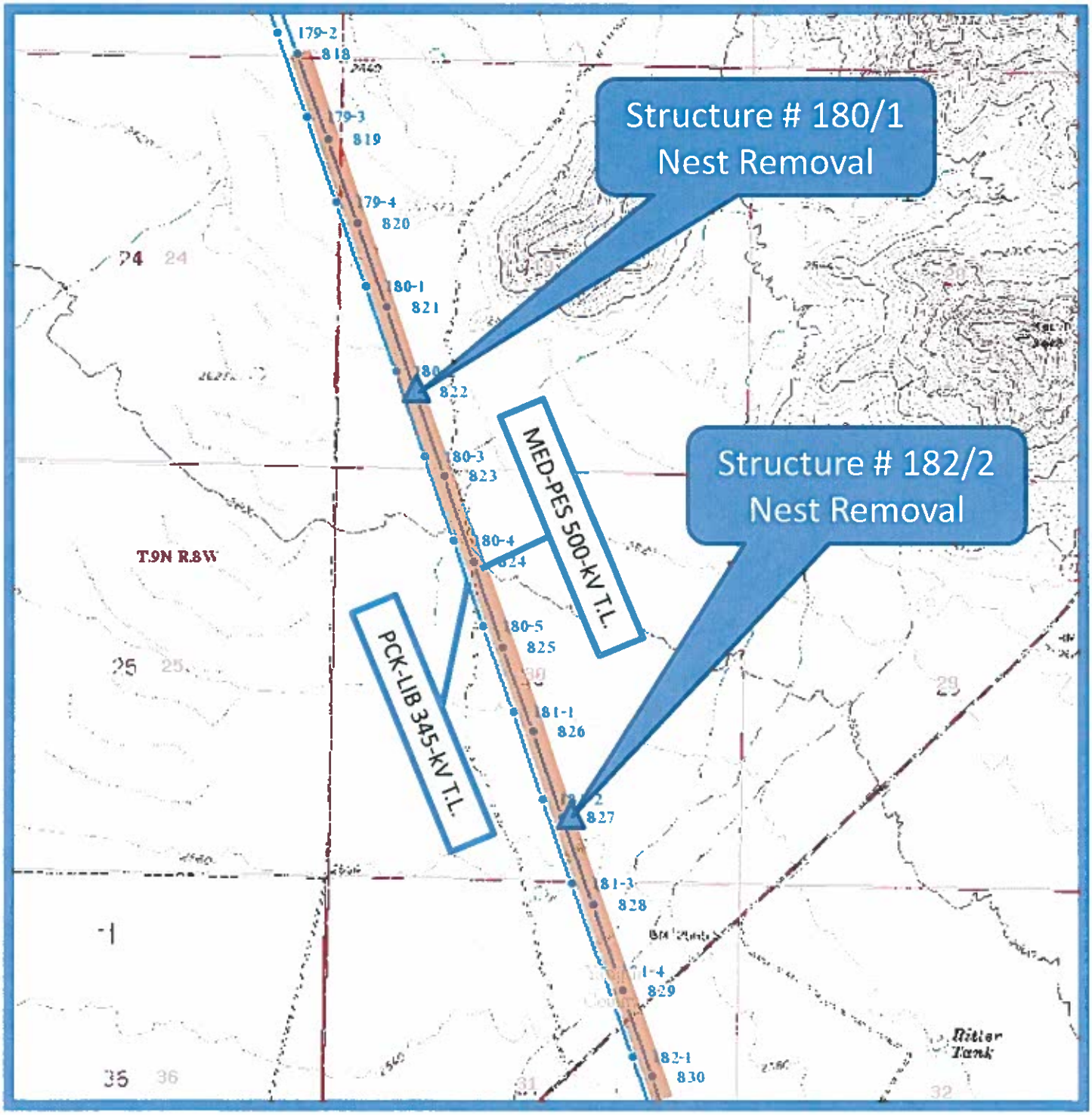
1. **Avoid blading and ground-disturbing activities in the area from Structures 185/1 to 185/3**

John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

5/10/10
Date

Mead – Perkins 500-kV T.L.

Access Road Maintenance

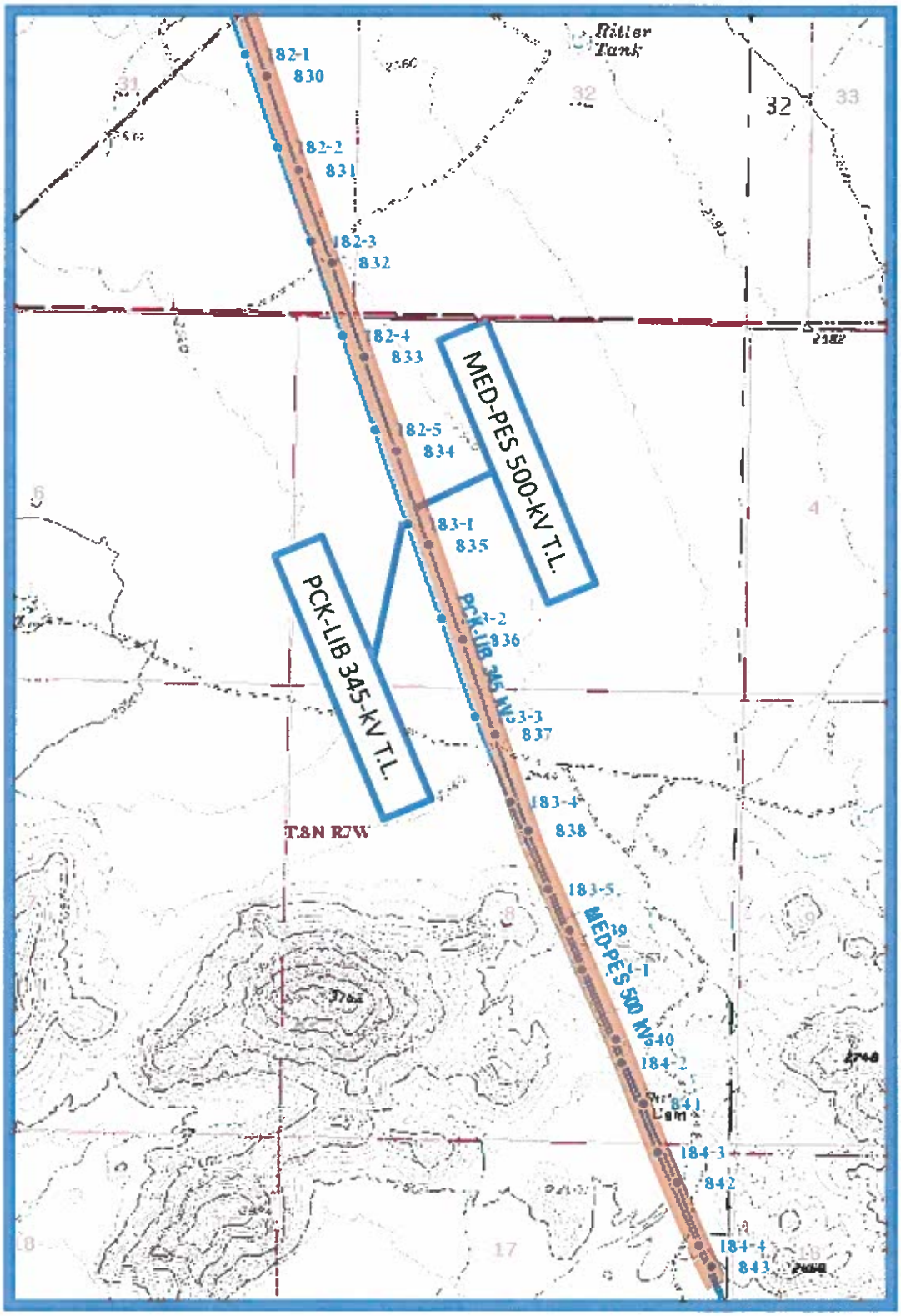


Access Road Maintenance Area

Avian Nesting Removal Area

Mead – Perkins 500-kV T.L.

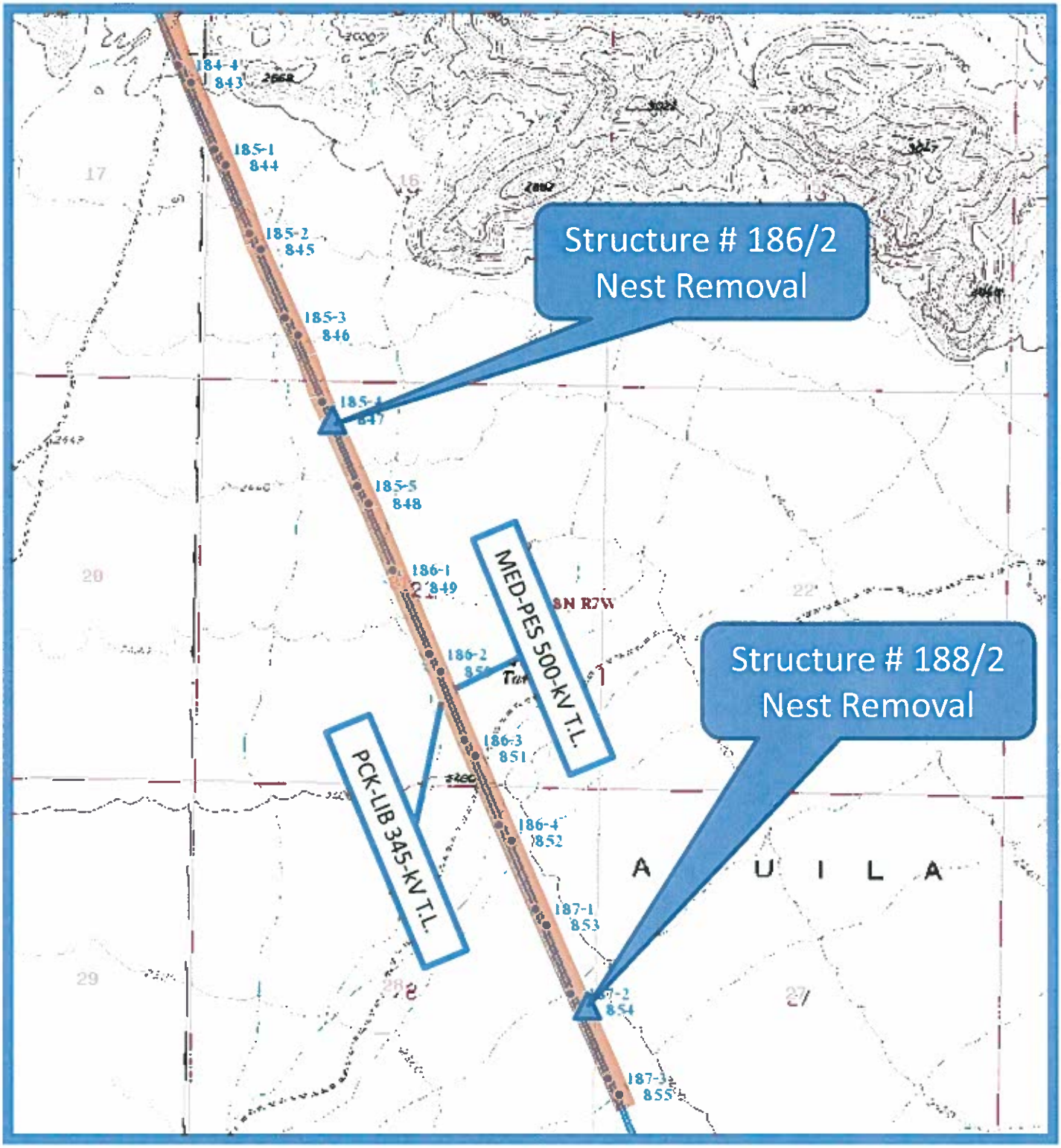
Access Road Maintenance & Nest Removal



Access Road Maintenance Area

Mead – Perkins 500-kV T.L.

Access Road Maintenance & Nest Removal



Access Road Maintenance Area

Avian Nesting Removal Area