RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to relocate part of its Oracle-Tucson 115-kV transmission line in cooperation with Pima County DOT for their La Canada Drive roadway expansion (Pima County Project No. 4LCRRI). This project involves removing 17 existing transmission line pole structures, and will furnish and install 17 new monopoles in a new location within Western's ROW. Western will be using existing access roads and vehicles such as an auger, pickup trucks, crew trucks, backhoes and bucket 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 situated within Sections 23, 26, and 35 of Township 12 South, Range 13 East and Sections 2 and 3 of Township 13 South, Range 13 East on the Gila & Salt River Meridian, Pima County, Arizona. Corresponding U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic is Tucson North, Arizona. This work is planned to begin the week of January 11, 2009.

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 ROW 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:

1. The construction of the project may move forward but NO vegetation is to be planted under Westerns Transmissions Line until Pima County DOT complies with Westerns Vegetation Management Plan. Pima County will revise the current vegetation plan and submit new plan to Western for review. Western will either agree or have Pima County DOT revise until it meets Westerns standards.

John R. Holt

John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

12/31/09
Date