RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. Proposed Action: Western proposes to relocate 5 steel monopole transmission line structures on our Oracle-Tucson 115-kV transmission line to accommodate Federal Highway Administration's La Canada Road Widening Project in Tucson. This project involves removing structures 19/4, 19/11, 20/1, 20/2 and 20/3, and furnishing and installing 5 new steel monopoles and foundations 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 3 & 10 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 expected to begin in the fall of 2010.

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. Concurrence was received from Arizona State Historic Preservation Office on June 8, 2010.

   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.

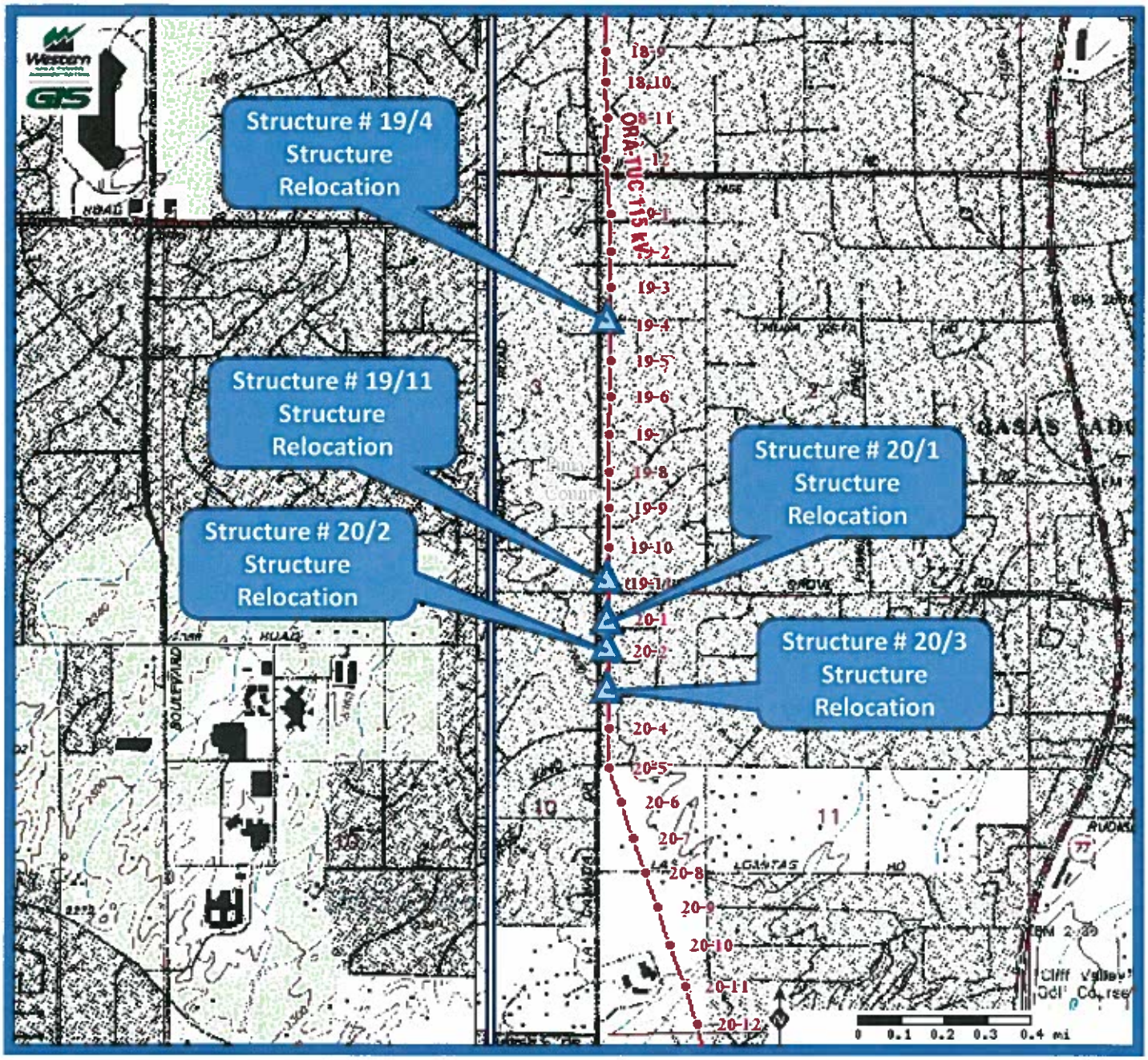
D. Determination: Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory 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

Oracle-Tucson 115-kV Transmission Line Structure Relocation



LEGAL DESCRIPTION		
SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE
3 and 10	13 South	13 East

Present Structure Location

Transmission Line

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