RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to improve access roads along a portion of the Pinnacle Peak to Prescott 230-kV Transmission Line (Structures 168/3 and 170/1), which are currently impassable, to maintain worker safety and the reliability of the bulk electric system.

Western plans to blade and grade the existing access road where it enters and leaves three washes so that Western's maintenance vehicles can drive across the washes. We will remove dirt from the road prism by starting at wash edges and pulling dirt up slope in order to create ramps with grades suitable for our equipment. We may use bulldozers, graders, backhoes, and crew trucks to accomplish the work. We plan to drive vehicles on existing access roads to bring personnel and equipment to the work area.

The Pinnacle Peak to Prescott 230-kV Transmission Line right-of-way between Structures 168/3 and 170/1 occurs on private land. The project is located in Sections 16 and 17 in Township 11 North, Range 2 East, Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian. The corresponding USGS topographic map is Cleator, Arizona.

We plan to begin work on August 16, 2010 and complete work on or before October 16, 2010.

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B1.3: "Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structures, rights-of-ways, infrastructures (e.g., pathways, roads, and railroads), vehicle and equipment, and localized vegetation and pest control, during which operation may be suspended and resumed… Routine maintenance activities, corrective (that is repair), preventive, and predicted, are required to maintain and preserve buildings, structures, infrastructures, and equipment in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designated purpose…"

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.

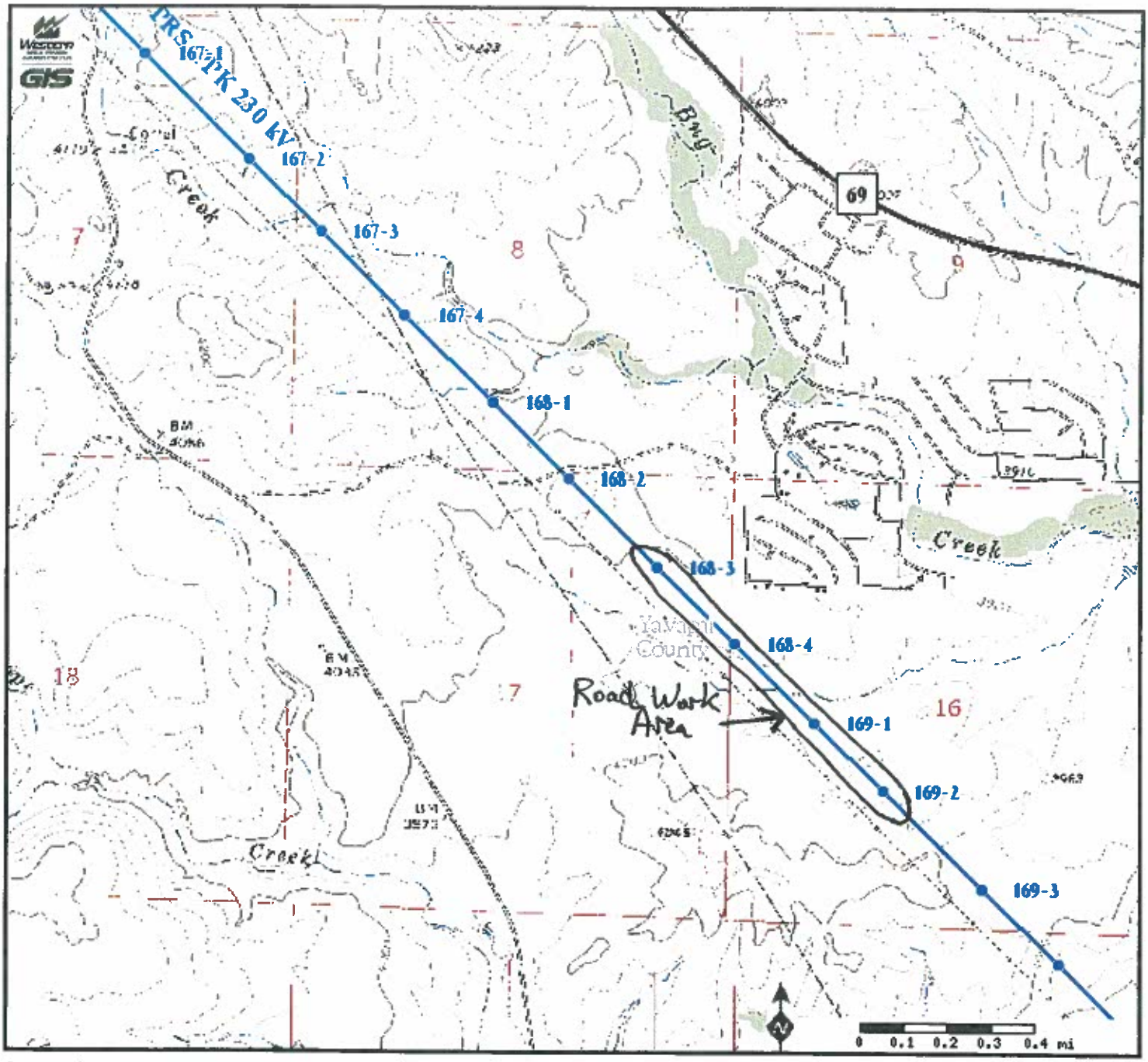
E. Special Conditions:

1. Avoid placing dirt or fill material in washes. Remove any fill that inadvertently falls into the wash using hand tools.

John R. Holt
John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

8/2/10
Date

Desert Southwest Region



Legend

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7/22/2010 4:45 P.M.

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

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