RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes removing 2 existing marker balls at structures 0/4 & 0/5 of the Pinnacle Peak-Rogers #1 & #2 230-kV double circuit transmission line & installing aerial marker ball equipment on all static wires (overhead ground wires) of the Prescott-Pinnacle Peak 230-kV transmission line on the north side of structures 216/1-216/3 & the southeast side of structures 0/3-0/5 on the Pinnacle Peak-Rogers #1 & #2 230-kV double circuit transmission line. The diverters will be installed using a hot stick by accessing the structure using existing access roads and using rubber-tired vehicles such as cherry pickers, pickup trucks, crew trucks. All work will be done within Westerns existing right-of-way. 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 4, 10 & 15 of Township 4 North, Range 4 East on the Gila & Salt River Meridian, Maricopa County, Arizona. The corresponding U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic is Curry's Corner, Arizona. This work is planned to begin during the week of December 27, 2010 and be completed by March 31, 2011.

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B1.9: "Placement of airway safety markings and painting (but excluding lighting) of existing electrical transmission lines and antenna structures in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards."

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

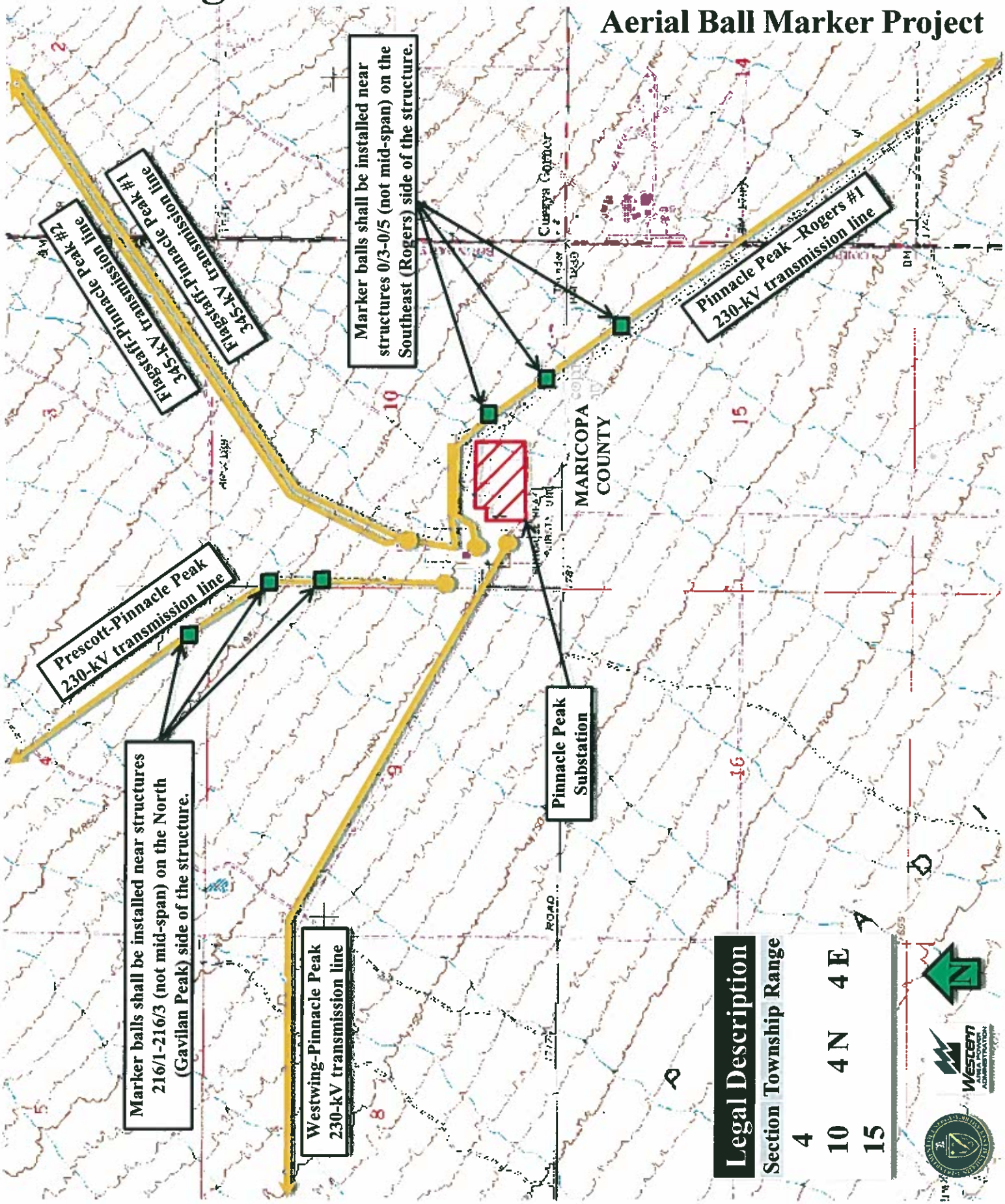
3. The proposal is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

D. <u>Determination:</u> 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. <u>Special Conditions:</u> NONE

John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

1/7/11
Date

Prescott-Pinnacle Peak & Pinnacle Peak-Rogers 230-kV transmission lines

Aerial Ball Marker Project