Categorical Exclusion for the addition of bird diversion equipment along the existing Prescott-Pinnacle Peak 230-kV transmission line right-of-way located in Yavapai County, Arizona.

RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes installing Firefly type bird diversion equipment onto static wires (overhead ground wires) of the Prescott-Pinnacle Peak 230-kV transmission line between structures 144/3 and 145/2. The diverters will be spaced approximately 15 ft apart alternating between the two static lines. The diverters will be installed using a hot stick from a helicopter or by accessing the line using existing access roads and 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 24 of Township 14 North, Range 2 West on the Gila & Salt River Meridian, Yavapai County, Arizona. The corresponding U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic is Prescott, Arizona. This work is planned to begin December 2010.

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B,B1.20: "Small-scale activities undertaken to protect, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat, fish passage facilities (such as fish ladders or minor diversion channels), or fisheries"

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: NONE

John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

12/13/10
Date

PRESCOTT-PINNACLE PEAK 230 kV Transmission Line

Granite Cr Crossing Bird Diverters

Approximate Project Center
34° 34' 50" N
-112° 25' 36" W