RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to cut down 4 Palo Verde trees using hand tools, under our existing Rogers-Coolidge 230-kV transmission line, within Western's existing right-of-way between Structures 35/4 and 36/2 on the Gila River Indian Reservation, Pinal County, Arizona. Western will be using pickup trucks along the existing access road located west of the transmission line 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 Section 21 of Township 4 South, Range 8 East on the Gila & Salt River Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona. This project takes place on un-allotted Gila River Indian Community lands. The corresponding U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic is Blackwater, Arizona. This work is planned to begin the week of February 22, 2010.

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B,B1.3: "Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structures, right-of-way, infrastructures (e.g., pathways, roads and railroads), vehicles and equipment, and localized vegetation and pest control, during which operations may be suspended and resumed...Routine maintenance activities, corrective (that is, repair), preventive and predictive are required to maintain and preserve buildings, structures, infrastructures and equipment in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designed 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. 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. **Western will drive on and park along an existing north-south dirt road that is an extension of Arizona Boulevard, located 1/8 – 1/4 mile east of the Roger-Coolidge transmission line.**
2. **Western will not drive on the access road within the Right-of-way (west of the transmission line) between structures 35/1 & 37/4 because of the presence of traditional cultural property.**
3. **Western will work only when a Gila River Indian Community cultural resource specialist is present to monitor the work.**
4. **Western will contact the Gila River Indian Community Cultural Resources Department 24 hours prior to conducting danger tree removal. Cliff Targowski (520) 562 – 6003 Gila River Indian Community Natural Resource Specialist.**
5. **Western will leave fire wood sized logs within the Right-of-Way to be used by the community.**

John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

2/18/10
Date