Categorical Exclusion for structure 25/3 maintenance along the existing Rogers-Coolidge 230-kV transmission line in Pinal COunty, Arizona

RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to replace damaged structure foundation and leg extension at structure 25/3 along the existing Rogers-Coolidge 230-kV transmission line. This will include providing temporary bracing to the structure, placing it on a steel plate laying across the surface of the ground during removal and replacement of the damaged leg and replacing the foundation, reinforced steel and associated hardware. The foundation replacement will occur within a 20-foot-wide x 20-foot-long x 10-foot-deep area. Western will access structures using crew trucks and pickup trucks along existing access roads. This work is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the bulk electrical system.

The attached maps show the project area is situated east of Davis Dam within Section 32 of Township 2 South, Range 8 East on the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona. Work will be conducted within Western's right of way across Private lands. The corresponding U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic map is Sacaton NE, Arizona. This work is planned to begin in September 15, 2011.

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."

B. **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. Should archaeological resources or vertebrate fossils be discovered during implementation of projects, all surface distributing activities in the area of

discovery shall cease. The archaeologist will evaluate the discovery and provide recommendations to the NEPA Compliance Officer. Surface disturbing activities shall not resume until permission is obtained from the NEPA Compliance Officer.

e. If in connection with operations under this authorization, any human remains of funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (P.L. 101-601; Stat. 3048; 25 U.S. 3001) are discovered, Western shall stop operations in the immediate area of the discovery, protect the remains and objects, and immediately notify the NEPA Compliance Officer of the discovery. Western shall continue to protect the immediate area of the discovery until notified by the NEPA Compliance Officer that operations may resume.

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.

C. **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.

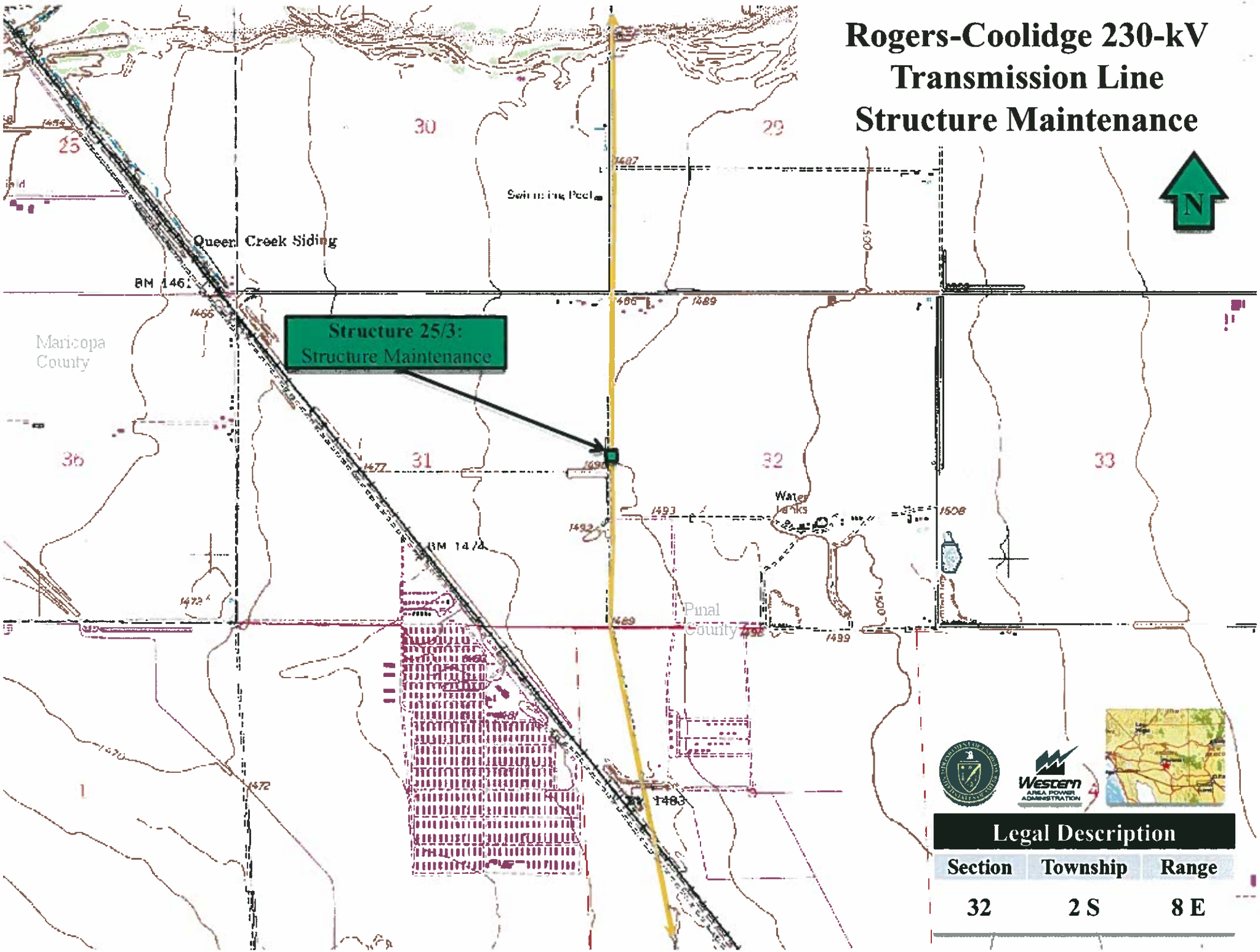
D. **Special Conditions:**

NONE

Linda J. Hughes
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date 8-26-11

Rogers-Coolidge 230-kV Transmission Line Structure Maintenance



Legal Description		
Section	Township	Range
32	2 S	8 E