RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to trench a 2-inch conduit from Electrical District No. 2's Signal Substation yard to Western's Signal Tap Substation yard and terminate on the north side of Western's control building. The trenching will be a minimum of 18 inches deep and approximately 3 feet wide. The disturbed ground will be used for backfill. We will use existing access roads and vehicles such as pickup trucks, crew trucks, backhoes, and bucket trucks to bring personnel and equipment to the work area.

The attached map shows the project area location. The legal description is Section 6 Township 6 South, Range 8 East on the Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian (USGS Coolidge 7.5' maps). It is estimated that the work would be performed between September 2010 and February 2011.

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B4.6: "Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including, but not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, changing insulators and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers and crossarms. "

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:

John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

9/9/10
Date