RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western Area Power Administration (Western) proposes to conduct archaeological test excavations at Coolidge Substation in order to determine the content, condition and extent of an archaeological site, AZ U:14:292(ASM), and two filled-in canal segments. Western consulted with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer and Indian tribes regarding this identification effort pursuant to 36 CFR 800.

The project is located north of State Routes 87 and 287 and west of Arizona Boulevard, north of Coolidge, Pinal County, Arizona. It is situated in Section 9 in Township 5 South, Range 8 East on the Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian. The corresponding USGS topographic map is Blackwater, Ariz. The substation occurs on land owned in fee by Western (Pinal County, Book 19, Pages 241-3, 12/27/1949).

The work entails using a backhoe to excavate trenches to a depth of approximately 5 feet and shovels and trowels to scrape the trench sidewalls. Fieldwork is expected to begin on or around October 24, 2011 and last for three weeks.

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B3.1: "Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring... Specific activities include, but are not limited to:.. (j) Archaeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7."

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, contaminants, or CERCLA-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 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.

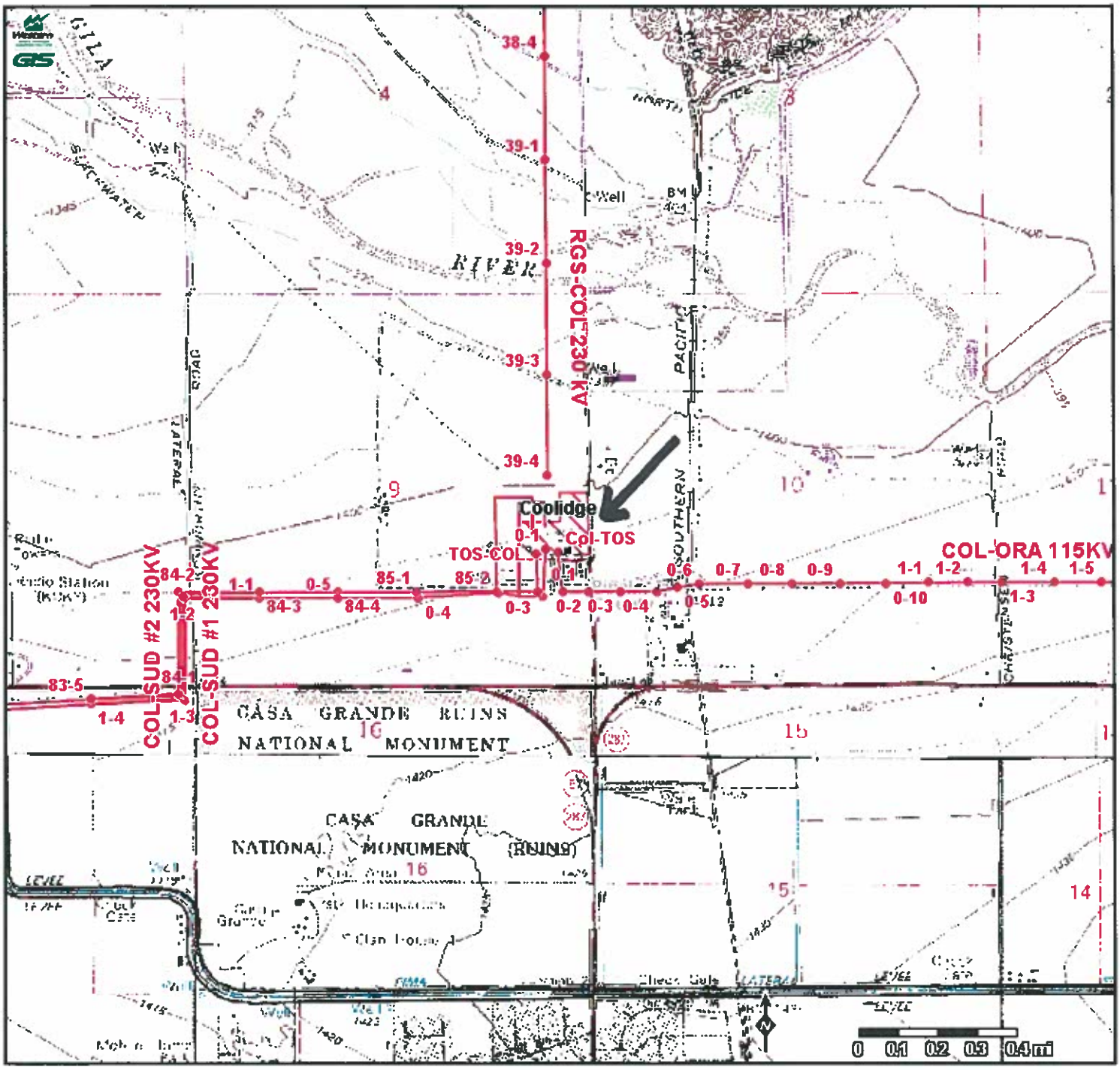
E. Special Conditions:

1. Western will ensure that its archaeological contractor prepares and implements a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.
2. Western will ensure that its archaeological contractor prepares and implements a Pinal County Dust Control Permit.
3. Western will ensure that Western and its archaeological contractor follow the terms of the project-specific Plan of Action prepared under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and signed 10/3/2011.

Linda Hughes
NEPA Compliance Officer

10·13·11
Date

Desert Southwest Region



Legend

Map Parameters

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10/12/2011 9:52 A.M.

Western Area Power Administration
An agency of the U.S. Department of Energy

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