RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to replace the transmission line structures and conductors of approximately 4.9 miles of the existing Gila-Gila Valley transmission line and to add an overhead ground wire. The Gila-Gila Valley transmission line comprises a 34.5-kilovolt (kV) main line and several 440-volt (V) tap lines that feed numerous Bureau of Reclamation pumps in the Yuma, Arizona area. The main line and tap lines are supported by single wood or steel structures. Work would be conducted within the 40-ft-wide (440-V) to 100-ft-wide (34.5-kV) right-of-ways (ROWs).

Western has periodically replaced transmission line structures as a result of storm damage, ongoing maintenance, and vehicle strikes. Western recently partnered with the Arizona Public Service Company to rebuild approximately 2 miles of the 34.5-KV line. The remaining 4.9 miles of the transmission line would be rebuilt and an overhead groundwire installed to increase the reliability and safety of the transmission-line system.

The Gila-Gila Valley transmission line is a Bureau of Reclamation radial line that is operated and maintained by Western. Western owns all ROWs in the project area, which crosses private land in Yuma, Arizona along 24th Street (see attached map). The project area is located within portions of Sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, T8S, R22W, and within portions of the N½ of Sections 1, 5, and 6, T9S, R22W, Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian (USGS 7.5' Yuma East, Ariz. 1994, and Fortuna, Ariz. 1979).

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B4.13: "Reconstruction and minor relocation of existing electric powerlines approximately 20 miles in length or less."

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, 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. Avoid ground-disturbing impacts to the Gila Gravity Main Canal and the South Gila Valley Main Canal; the transmission line may span these historic-period structures.

Linda Hughes
NEPA Compliance Officer

9.29.11
Date