

M. Chevance, A3400



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

JUL 27 2000

Daniel Abeyta, Acting State Historical Preservation Officer
Attn: Steve Grantham, Associate State Archeologist
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Abeyta:

Wisvest Corporation, a subsidiary of Wisconsin Energy Corporation, has approached Western Area Power Administration (Western) concerning a potential interconnection with our electrical transmission system. Wisvest proposes to construct and operate a 500-MW natural gas-fired, combined cycle, electrical generation plant on private property near the City of Blythe, Riverside County, California. Western is the lead Federal Agency in accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and the national historic Preservation Act. Also participating in the environmental review of the proposal is the California Energy Commission staff (Commission) as co-lead for this project. The Commission has the responsibility for the consideration of historic properties in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act in their siting process.

In accordance with your request to consult on the area of potential effects [36 CFR 800.4(a)(1)], Western has determined that the project area of potential effects will be defined by the areas shown on the attached map. The map shows the location of the proposed plant site and routes for the natural gas pipelines (see Figure 1.0-9). All changes to the electrical system will take place adjacent to the project site and the Blythe Substation immediately east of the project site (see Figure 8.0-8). It is possible that, as the environmental review proceeds, Western and the Commission may identify other project areas of potential effect beyond those identified here. Your office will be notified of these changes as they happen. Western believes consultation with your office on identification, eligibility, and effect may be initiated sometime soon.

If you have any questions about this determination, please feel free to contact myself, Mr. Nicholas Chevance, Environmental Project Manager (720) 962-7254, or Ms. Mary Barger (720) 962-7253, Western's Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Holt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Holt
Environmental Manager

Attachments

cc:

Diana Walls
Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer
Attn: Matthew Bilsbarrow
Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Lance Shaw, Project Manager
California Energy Commission
Energy Facilities Siting and Environmental Protection Division
1516 9th Street, MS 15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5504

Jeffrey Harvey, Project Manager
Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc.
650 University Avenue, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 9582

bcc:

M. Barger, A3400, Lakewood, CO
N. Chevance, A3400, Lakewood, CO

JHolt:jlm:07/24/00:D

:jlm:07/25/00:F

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