U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Spook Hill Substation Decommission

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration - Desert Southwest Region

Location(s) (City/County/State): Mesa, Arizona (Maricopa County)

Proposed Action Description:

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), in collaboration with the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), proposes to decommission the existing Spook Hill Substation (SPH) as it is no longer needed. The proposed decommissioning would reduce and eventually eliminate costs for maintaining all the existing equipment.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.10 - Removal of electric transmission facilities

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☑ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

☑ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

☑ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: [signature] Date Determined: 12.16.16

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form - CONTINUATION SHEET

SPH Substation Decommission

Project Description (continued):

The proposed decommission would occur in two phases. Phase I would involve the dismantling and removal of the existing electrical equipment down to the concrete foundations, and the removal and disposal of batteries. This includes the equipment that resides under the existing transmission line. All electrical equipment would be stored on-site. Phase I would essentially isolate the SPH from the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) electrical grid. Phase II entails demolition and disposal of the building and foundations on-site, and all the existing electrical equipment that was stored on-site during Phase I.

The WAPA is responsible for maintaining all equipment at SPH, so WAPA has a primary involvement in the dismantling, removal and disposal of equipment.

Work would be accomplished using equipment such as boom trucks, bucket trucks, man-lifts, and cranes. There will be no ground disturbance, and all work will occur within the SPH boundary. Phase I would begin the week of January 30, 2017 and take about two weeks to complete. Phase II would be completed at a date determined by the BOR and CAWCD.

Special Conditions:

1) WAPA staff performing work described in this Categorical Exclusion (CX) will contact WAPA's Environmental Department to ensure proper procedures are implemented for removal and disposal of batteries, control building and foundation materials at the SPH.
2) If work is delayed into March, 2017 or later, WAPA staff performing work described in this CX will contact WAPA's Environmental Department, so staff can determine whether a biological survey (for active bird nests) is required prior to planned work.