U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Parker-Gila 161-kV Transmission Line Maintenance Project, Structure 92/1 to 94/9

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Regional Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:
Western proposes to conduct maintenance activities on the existing Parker-Gila (PAD-GLA) 161-kV transmission line between structures 92-1 and 94-9 in Yuma County, Arizona. The project is within Western's existing easement on lands administered by the Department of Defense, Yuma Proving Ground in Township 5 South, Range 23 West, Sections 14, 23, 26, and 27 (Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian; Figures 1 and 2). The purpose of the project is to provide for the safe and continuous operation of the bulk electrical system.

The scope of work includes replacing guy wire anchors and cross arms on existing wood pole structures and conducting access road maintenance in the project segment; crews may conduct additional maintenance within the project segment, as on-site assessment warrants. Cross arm repair work will be conducted by staging equipment (e.g., bucket trucks) within a maximum of 140-feet of the structures lengthwise along the corridor but within the existing 100-foot-wide easement. Guy anchor replacements may require a ground disturbance area of about 675 square feet (25' x 25') to remove the old anchor and install the new anchor. Equipment needed to conduct the structure repairs and access road maintenance includes dozers, bucket trucks, line trucks, crew trucks, and backhoes. The project will be conducted no sooner than October 1, 2013, and will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. All project activities will be completed by May 15, 2014.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:
B1.3 - Routine maintenance

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: Lynn Marcoux Date Determined: 6-5-13

Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Region Parker-Gila 161-kV Transmission Line Maintenance, Structure 92/1 to 94/9 - Continuation Sheet

Special Conditions

1. The Yuma Proving Ground shall be notified at least 15 days in advance of the start of project activities.
2. To avoid impacts to nesting birds, project activities will be scheduled between **August 1 and February 15**, as feasible. Crews shall not cause injury or death to nesting birds, active nests, eggs, or nestlings. If evidence of a nesting bird is found in the project area, crews shall immediately stop work in that area until Western's Environmental Group has been contacted.
3. To avoid impacts to archaeological and cultural resources, a Cultural Monitor shall flag avoidance areas prior to the start of on-site activities. The Cultural Monitor shall be present during all project activities occurring within 100 feet of avoidance areas.

Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)	Disagree	Agree	Unknown
(b)(1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix A or B to subpart D.		X	
(b)(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; and unresolved conflicts concerting alternate uses of available resources		X	
(b)(3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Segmentation can occur when a proposal is broken down into small parts in order to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. The scope of a proposal must include the consideration of connected and cumulative actions, that is, the 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 § 1021.211 of this part concerning limitations on actions during EIS preparation.		X	
B. Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B. :	NO	YES	UNKNOWN
(1) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.	X		
(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;	X		
(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;	X		
(4) Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. An environmentally sensitive resource is typically a resource that has been identified as needing protection through Executive Order, statue, or regulation by Federal, state, or local government, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. An action may be categorically excluded if, although sensitive resources are present, the action would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on those resources (such as construction of a building with its foundation well above a sole-source aquifer or upland surface soil removal on a site that has wetlands). Environmentally sensitive	X		

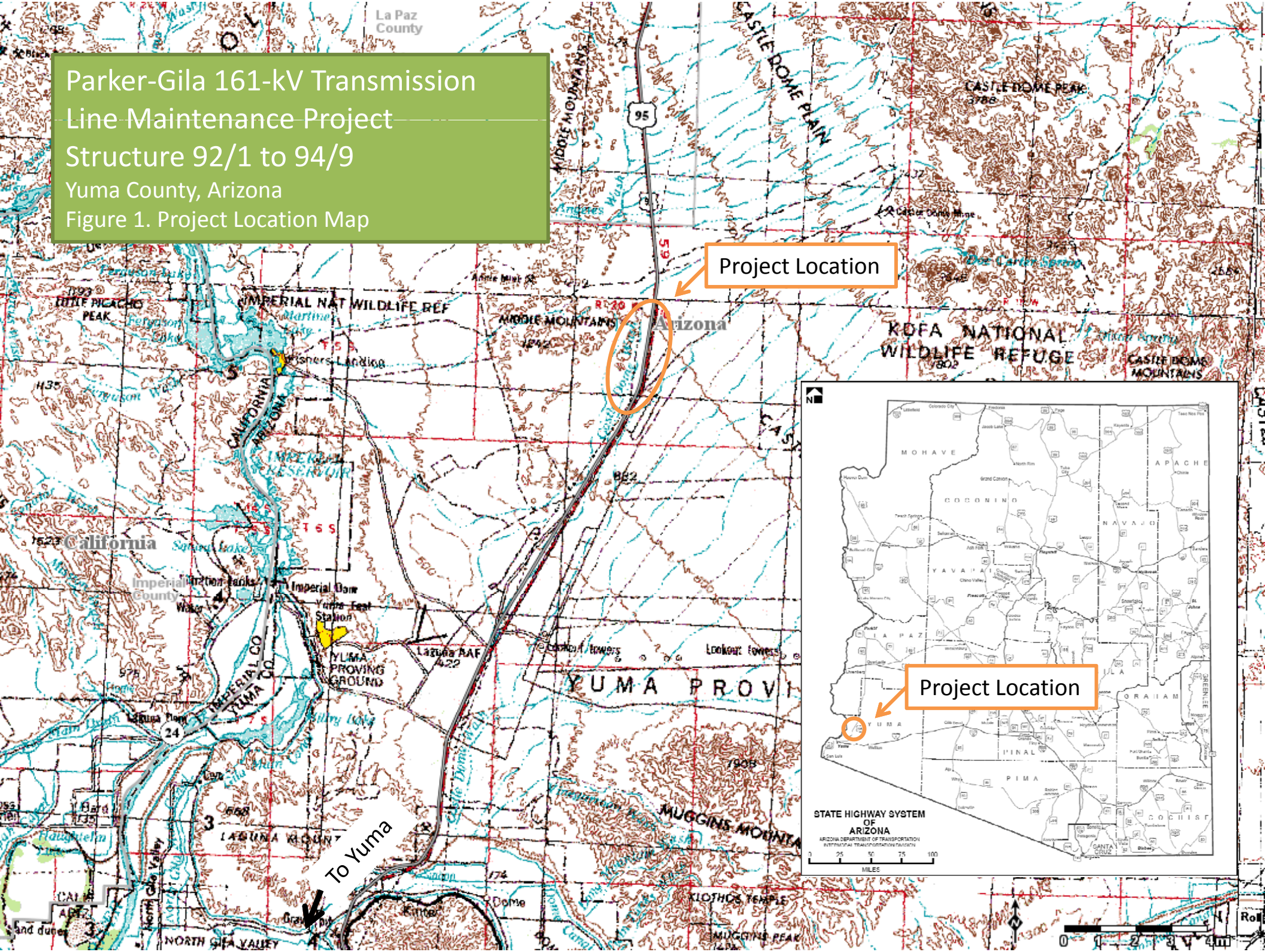
resources include, but are not limited to:			
(i) Property (such as sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by a Federal, state, or local government, or property determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;	X		
(ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat) or Federally- proposed or candidate species or their habitat (Endangered Species Act); state-listed or state-proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; Federally-protected marine mammals and Essential Fish Habitat (Marine Mammal Protection Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act); and otherwise Federally-protected species (such as under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act);	X		
(iii) Floodplains and wetlands (as defined in 10 CFR 1022.4, —Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements: "Definitions," or its successor);	X		
(iv) Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national monuments, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges, scenic areas (such as National Scenic and Historic Trails or National Scenic Areas), and marine sanctuaries;	X		
(v) Prime or unique farmland, or other farmland of statewide or local importance, as defined at 7 CFR 658.2(a), —Farmland Protection Policy Act: Definitions,‖ or its successor;	X		
(vi) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and	X		
(vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests.; or	X		
(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 of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.	X		

Parker-Gila 161-kV Transmission Line Maintenance Project

Structure 92/1 to 94/9

Yuma County, Arizona

Figure 1. Project Location Map

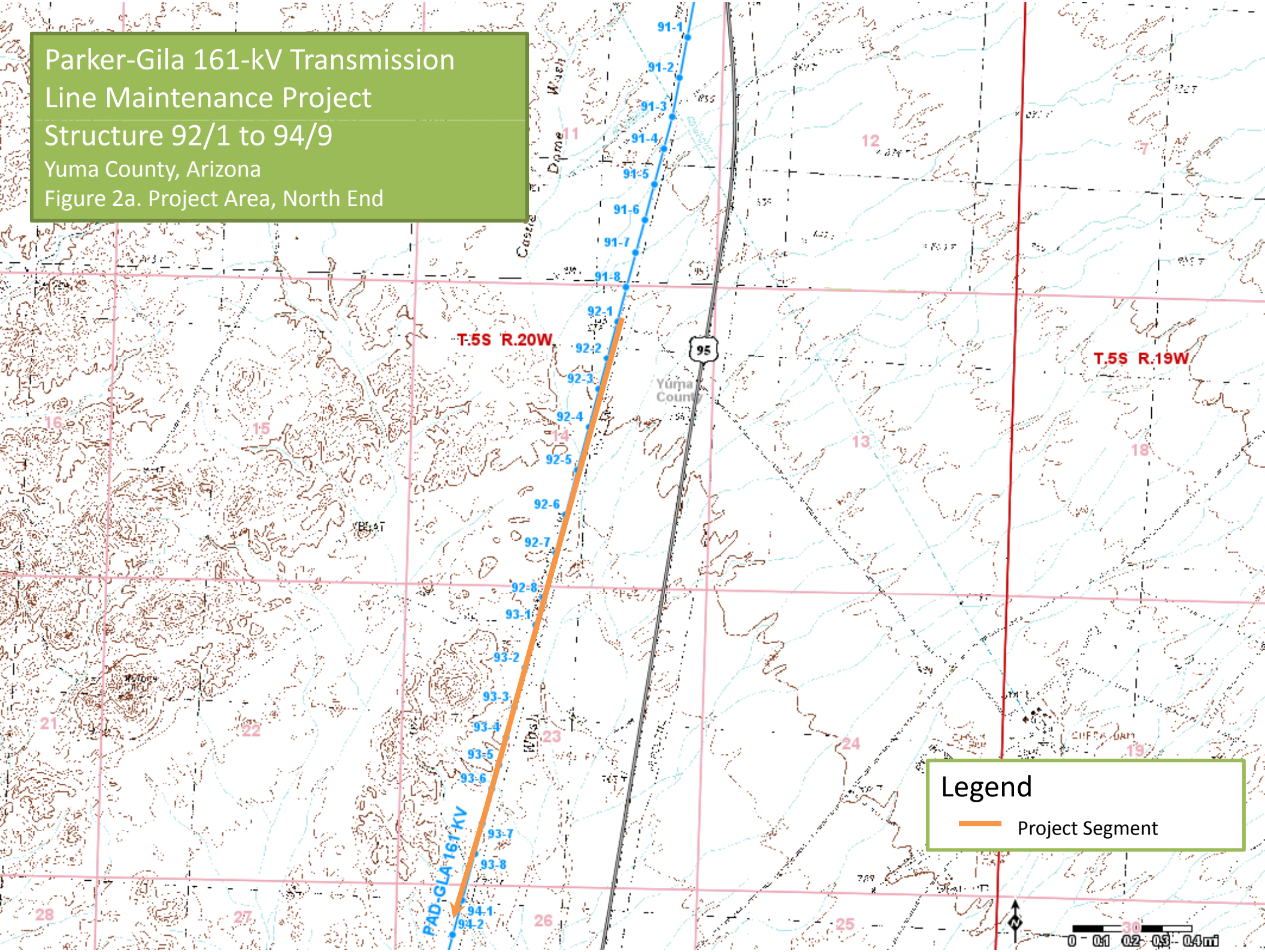


Parker-Gila 161-kV Transmission Line Maintenance Project

Structure 92/1 to 94/9

Yuma County, Arizona

Figure 2a. Project Area, North End



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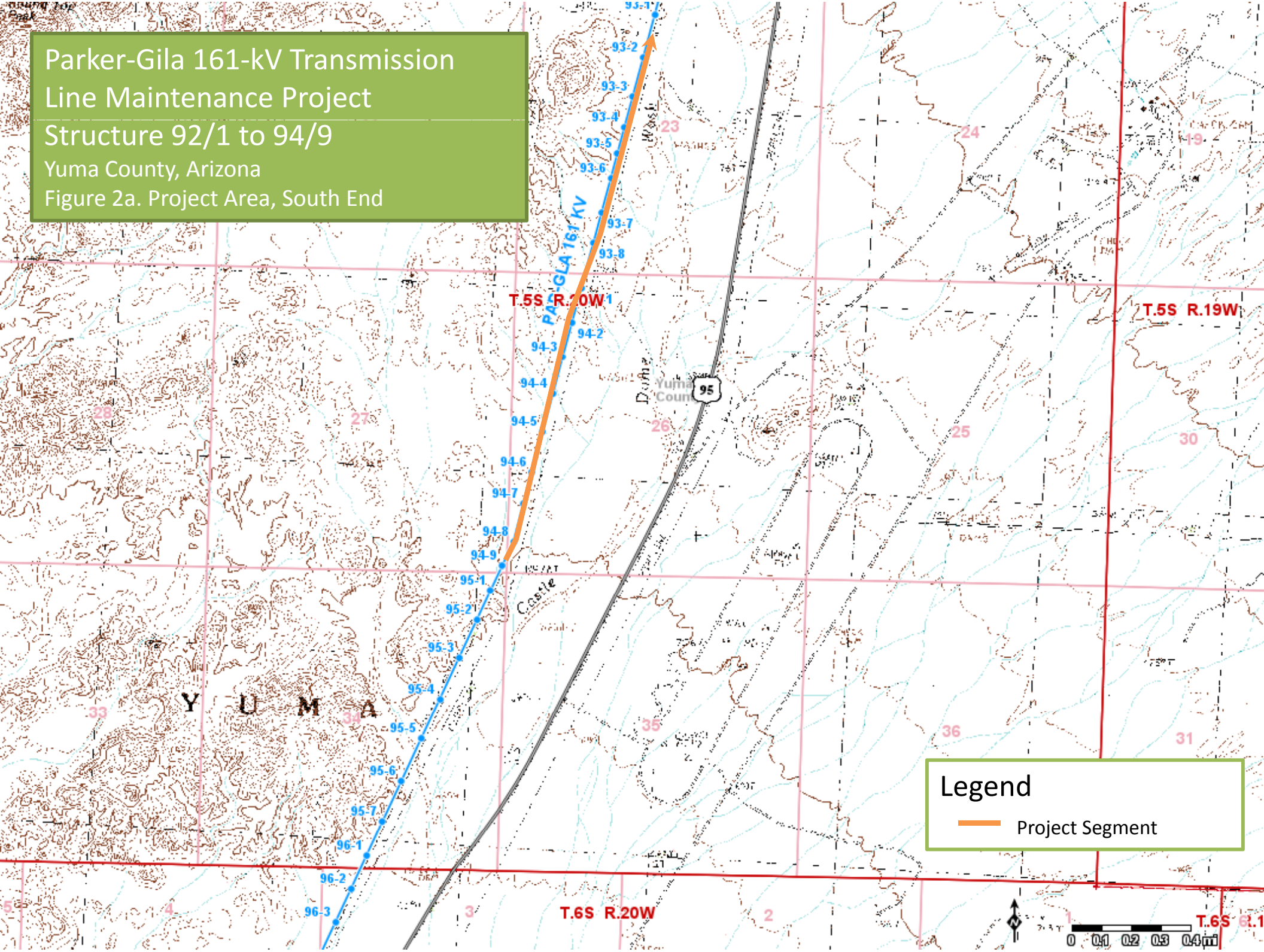
Figure 2a. Project Area, South End