U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Herbicide Application at 36 Substations located in Arizona and California during Fiscal Year 2013

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Cochise, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Pinal, Pima & Yuma Counties, AZ & Imperial & Riverside Counties, CA

Proposed Action Description:

Western plans apply pre-emergent, post-emergent, UV Inhibitor herbicides, which may include spray marking dyes, at 36 substations (see attached list). This work is needed to maintain the reliability and safety of the bulk electric system. For example, live or dead vegetation sticking up through a grounded work platform adjacent to energized equipment may circumvent the grounding protection resulting in an injury to a worker standing on the platform.

Western will apply herbicides either using either hand tools or vehicular mounted equipment within the substation and extending 5 feet outside the perimeter fence where possible. Applications are expected to occur intermittently and may be repeated based on regrowth. Vegetation may be cut or pulled to achieve a bare earth standard. Removed vegetation will be removed off-site and disposed of properly. Western plans to conduct this maintenance action between 4/22/2013 and 9/30/2013.

Special Conditions:

1) Workers applying the herbicides shall follow the manufacturer's instructions, and all Federal, State and local codes and regulations.
2) Workers applying the herbicides shall be licensed or certified for such work by the appropriate jurisdiction.
3) A biological monitor shall conduct a pre-application survey and monitor the application work at the following substations: Del Bac, Harcuvar, Knob, Nogales, Rattlesnake & Sonora.
4) If safe to do so, vegetation in the northwest corner of Coolidge Substation shall be control burned and a Pinal County air-quality permit obtained

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: Lynda Marquart

Date Determined: 4.19.13

List of Substations associated with the Categorical Exclusion for Herbicide Application at 36 Substations located in Arizona and California during Fiscal Year 2013			
Substation	County	State	Power System
Adams	Cochise	Arizona	Parker Davis
Blythe	Riverside	California	Parker Davis
Bouse	La Paz	Arizona	Parker Davis
Casa Grande	Pinal	Arizona	Parker Davis
Cochise	Cochise	Arizona	Parker Davis
Coolidge	Pinal	Arizona	Parker Davis
Davis	Mohave	Arizona	Parker Davis
Del Bac	Pima	Arizona	Central Arizona
Dome Tap	Yuma	Arizona	Parker Davis
Electrical District #2	Pinal	Arizona	Parker Davis
Electrical District #4	Pinal	Arizona	Parker Davis
Electrical District #5	Pinal	Arizona	Parker Davis
Empire	Pinal	Arizona	Parker Davis
Gila	Yuma	Arizona	Parker Davis
Harcuvar	La Paz	Arizona	Central Arizona
Hassayampa Tap	Maricopa	Arizona	Central Arizona
Knob	Imperial	California	Parker Davis
Kofa	Yuma	Arizona	Parker Davis
Liberty	Maricopa	Arizona	Intertie
Mesa	Maricopa	Arizona	Parker Davis
Nogales	Pima	Arizona	Parker Davis
Oracle	Pinal	Arizona	Parker Davis
Phoenix	Maricopa	Arizona	Parker Davis
Pinnacle Peak	Maricopa	Arizona	Colorado River Storage
Rattlesnake	Pima	Arizona	Parker Davis
Rogers	Maricopa	Arizona	Parker Davis
Senator Wash	Imperial	California	Colorado River Front & Levee
Signal	Pinal	Arizona	Parker Davis
Sonora	Yuma	Arizona	Colorado River Salinity Control
Spook Hill	Maricopa	Arizona	Central Arizona
Sundance	Pinal	Arizona	
Test Track	Pinal	Arizona	Parker Davis
Tucson	Pima	Arizona	Parker Davis
Wellton Mohawk #1 Pumping Plant	Yuma	Arizona	Parker Davis
Wellton Mohawk Pumping Plant #3	Yuma	Arizona	Parker Davis
Wellton Mohawk	Yuma	Arizona	Parker Davis

Checklist for Categorical Exclusion Determination, revised Nov. 2011

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 resources include, but are not limited to:	X		
(i) Property (such as sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance	X		

	designated by a Federal, state, or local government, or property determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;			
(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		