FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Herbicide Application at Three Western Area Power Administration Substations
Maricopa and Yuma Counties, Arizona; Imperial County, California
DOE/EA-2013

AGENCY: **U.S. Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration**

ACTION: **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

BACKGROUND: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Western Area Power Administration (Western) operates and maintains three substations located on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Maricopa County, Arizona; Yuma County, Arizona; and Imperial County, California. Western must manage vegetation near and within substations to provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity and to prevent blackouts and wildfires, which can harm people, wildlife, habitat, and property.

Under the Proposed Action, Western would use herbicides, in addition to manual and mechanical methods, to manage undesirable vegetation at substations. Because these substations are on BLM lands, the BLM must decide whether to issue Pesticide Use Permits for the Proposed Action. Western and the BLM, as co-lead federal agencies, prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing the Proposed Action and a No Action Alternative. The EA is titled "Herbicide Application at Three Western Area Power Administration Substations (DOE/EA-2013)" and dated January 25, 2016.

DETERMINATION: Based on the analysis contained in DOE/EA-2013, Western determines that the Proposed Action to use herbicides to manage vegetation at three substations on BLM lands does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (*See* DOE/EA 2013, Table 3-1, *Resources and Rationale for Detailed Analysis*). The Proposed Action will not impact any floodplains or wetlands. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

Additional information and copies of the EA and FONSI are available to all interested parties and the public from the following contact:

Ms. Johnida S. Dockens
NEPA Document Manager
Desert Southwest Region
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457
(602) 605-2640
dockens@wapa.gov

The EA and FONSI can be downloaded from Western's website or the U.S. Department of Energy's website at:
https://www.wapa.gov/regions/DSW/Environment/Pages/EA-for-Herbicide-Use-at-Three-Substations.aspx

For further information on the DOE NEPA process, contact:

Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom
Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585
(202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756

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Ronald E. Moulton
Senior Vice President and
Desert Southwest Regional Manager