U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Herbicide Application at 4 Substations: Blythe, Knob, Parker, and Senator Wash located in California during Fiscal Year 2014

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino Counties, CA

Proposed Action Description:
Western plans apply pre-emergent, post-emergent, UV Inhibitor herbicides, which will include spray marking dyes, at 4 substations: Blythe, Knob, Parker, and Senator Wash (see attached list for locational information). 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. Pulled vegetation will be removed off-site and disposed of properly. Western plans to hire a licensed contractor to conduct the work under a performance-based work statement. Western plans to conduct this maintenance action between 8/1/2013 and 9/30/2014.

Special Conditions:
See attached continuation sheet for special conditions.

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: Lond Marcant Date Determined: 7.1.13

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		

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form – Continuation Sheet

Project Description:

California Substations Selected for Herbicide Application.					
Substation	**Acreage**	**Legal Description (SBBM)**	**County**	**State**	**Land Jurisdiction**
BLYTHE	±2.06	S33 T06S R22E	Riverside	CA	western
KNOB	±1.51	S15 T16S R21E	Imperial	CA	western
PARKER DAM	±8.42	S04 T02N R27E	San Bernardino	CA	BLM withdrawn
SENATOR WASH	±.13	S05 T15S R24E	Imperial	CA	BLM
Notes: BLM – U.S. Bureau of Land Management; SBBM – San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. Land jurisdiction is based on a review of Western's GIS database; contact Western's Lands staff for more information if needed.					

Special Conditions:

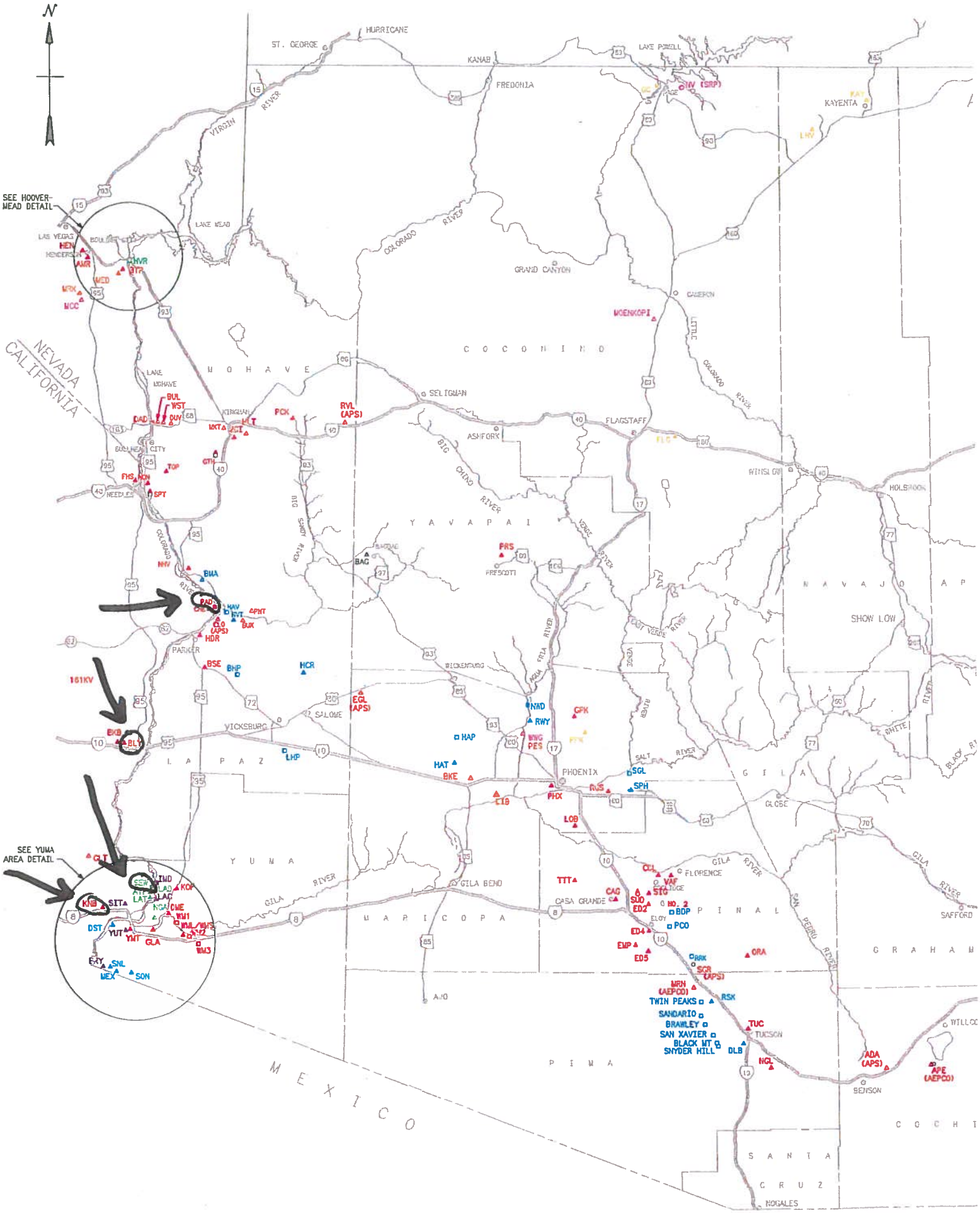
A. General

1. Workers applying the herbicides shall follow the manufacturer's instructions located on the label, and all Federal, State, Tribal and local codes and regulations.
2. Workers applying the herbicides shall be licensed or certified for such work by the appropriate jurisdiction.
3. Either Western or the herbicide application contractor shall obtain a Pesticide Use Permit before any applying herbicides at substations located on land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (e.g., Nogales, North Havasu, Senator Wash, Sonora, Spook Hill) and follow any permit conditions.

B. Biology

1. Western's Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) for the herbicide application contract shall notify Western's Environmental Section at least 7 days prior to the start of on-site activities in any location to coordinate biological survey and monitoring activities. Using the schedule, the Environmental Section will provide the COR with available biological information for upcoming substations.
2. Due to their known adverse effects to some wildlife, Western or the contractor shall <u>not</u> use 2,4-D or 2,4,5-T herbicides at any substations located in California or Nevada; or at Adams, Harcuvar, Nogales, and Sonora substations in Arizona.
3. Western's Environmental Section shall provide environmental awareness training to the Contractor's field personnel at a kickoff meeting or a training session at the start of each contract year. The environmental awareness training shall include information on desert tortoise, Pima pineapple cactus (PPC), migratory birds, and other special status species.
4. The Contractor shall <u>not</u> conduct on-site activities prior to attending the environmental awareness training (#3, above). All new contract field personnel starting after the initial training session shall attend a make-up training session prior to conducting on-site activities.

5. Per Western's communication with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), a qualified biologist shall be present for project activities occurring at substations with the potential to impact listed or sensitive species (#6 and #7, below). The duties of the qualified biologist shall include the following:
    a) Conduct a survey of all work areas for tortoises, nesting birds, and other sensitive species prior to the start of on-site project activities;
    b) Inspection and monitoring of any tortoises, burrows, active nests, or other sensitive species that were located during the on-site survey ([a], above);
    c) Regular inspection of the work areas, including access routes and other areas related to project activities, for desert tortoise;
    d) Regular inspection beneath vehicles and equipment to ensure that they do not present potential hazards to wildlife, including desert tortoises.
6. A qualified biologist shall be present for the following:
    a) All on-site project activities occurring at Mead substation, at any time of the year;
    b) On-site project activities occurring at Boulder City, Harcuvar, Knob, and Parker substations between April 1 and May 31, and between September 1 and October 31.
7. Western's Environmental Section shall conduct an annual survey for Pima Pineapple Cactus (PPC) at Nogales substation. If PPC are observed within 50 feet of the substation fencing, a qualified biologist shall monitor all project activities at Nogales substation.
8. The Contractor shall not cause injury or death to nesting birds, active nests, eggs, or nestlings. In general, breeding birds and active nests are likely to be encountered between February 15 and August 1. If evidence of a nesting bird is discovered in the project area:
    a) The Contractor shall immediately stop work within 40 feet of the nest and notify the COR with the location and nature of the findings. The Contractor shall not continue work in the avoidance area until directed to do so by the COR;
    b) The COR shall coordinate with Western's Environmental Section relative to active nest discoveries and any recommended actions; the COR shall provide notice to proceed to the Contractor after Western's internal coordination is complete.


N
SEE HOOVER-MEAD DETAIL
SEE YUMA AREA DETAIL
NEVADA
CALIFORNIA
MEXICO
161KV
ST. GEORGE
HURRICANE
KANAB
FREDONIA
LAKE POWELL
KAYENTA
VIRGIN RIVER
LAKE MEAD
LAS VEGAS
HENDERSON
BOULDER CITY
COLORADO RIVER
GRAND CANYON
CAMERON
LITTLE COLORADO RIVER
MOENKOPI
C O C O N I N O
M O H A V E
LAKE MOHAVE
KINGMAN
SELIGMAN
ASHFORK
FLAGSTAFF
WINSLOW
HOLBROOK
BULLHEAD CITY
NEEDLES
BIG CHINO RIVER
BIG SANDY RIVER
Y A V A P A I
VERDE RIVER
PRESCOTT
BAGDAD
N A V A J O
SHOW LOW
PARKER
WICKENBURG
AGUA FRIA RIVER
EAST VERDE RIVER
VICKSBURG
SALOME
L A P A Z
PHOENIX
SALT RIVER
G I L A
GLOBE
WHITE RIVER
BLACK RIVER
Y U M A
GILA RIVER
GILA BEND
CASA GRANDE
FLORENCE
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ELOY
SAN PEDRO RIVER
SAFFORD
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BLACK MT
SNYDER HILL
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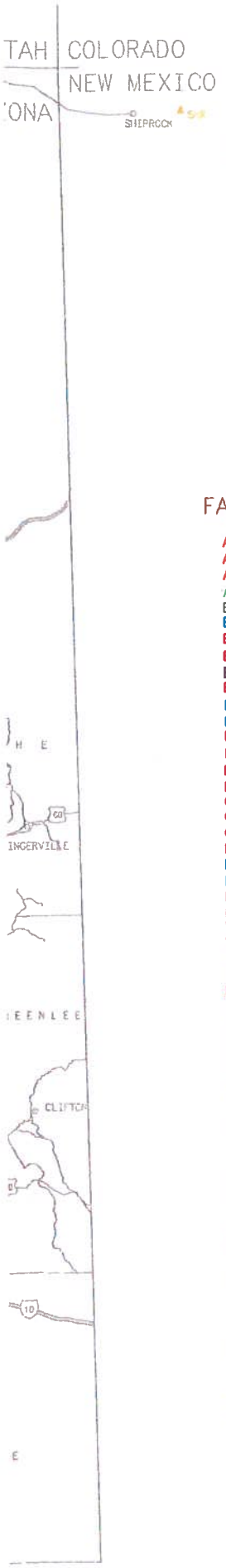
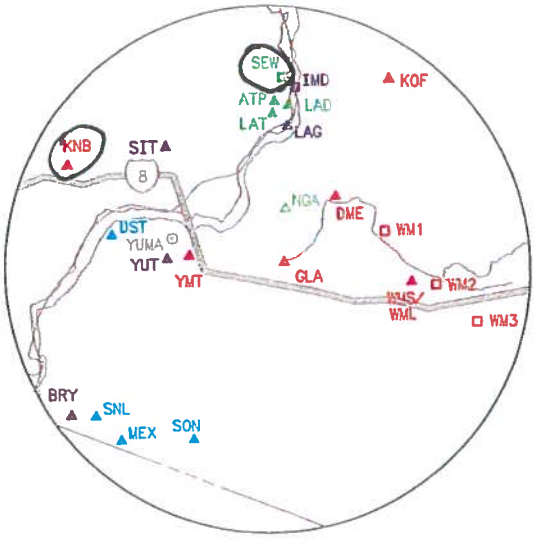
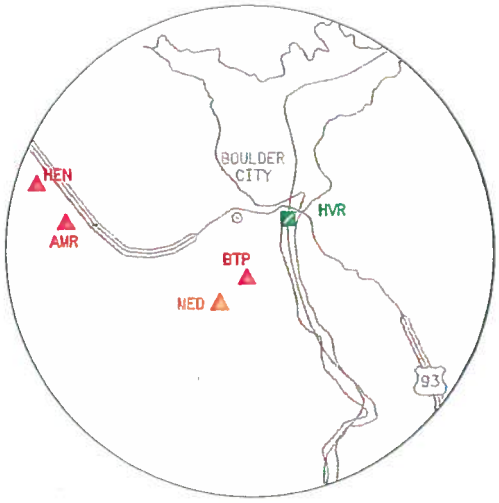
APE (AEPCO)





YUMA AREA DETAIL



HOOVER-MEAD DETAIL

FACILITY IDENTIFICATION DESIGNATION

ADA__ADAMS
AMR__AMARGOSA
APE__APACHE
ATP__ARMY TAP
BAG__BAGDAD
BMA__BLACK MESA
BLY__BLYTHE
BTP__BOULDER CITY TAP
BRY__BOUNDARY
BSE__BOUSE
BHP__BOUSE HILLS PUMP PLANT
BDP__BRADY TAP PUMP PLANT
BKB__BUCK BOULEVARD
BKE__BUCKEYE
BUK__BUCKSKIN
BUL__BULLHEAD
CAG__CASA GRANDE
CLO__COLORADO
COL__COOLIDGE
DAD__DAVIS
DLB__DEL BAC
DST__DESALTER
DME__DOME
DUV__DUVAL TAP
EGL__EAGLE EYE
ED2__ELECTRICAL DISTRICT 2
ED4__ELECTRICAL DISTRICT 4
ED5__ELECTRICAL DISTRICT 5
EMP__EMPIRE
FHS__FIREHOUSE
FLG__FLAGSTAFF
GPK__GAVILAN PEAK
GNE__GENE
GLA__GILA
GC__GLEN CANYON
GLT__GOLD MINE TAP
GTH__GRIFFITH
HCR__HARCUVAR
HAP__HASSAYAMPA PUMP PLANT
HAT__HASSAYAMPA TAP
HAV__HAVASU PUMP PLANT
HVT__HAVASU TAP
HDR__HEADGATE ROCK
HEN__HENDERSON
HLT__HILLTOP
HVR__HOOVER
IMD__IMPERIAL DAM
KAY__KAYENTA
KNB__KNOB
KOF__KOFA
LAG__LAGUNA
LAD__LAGUNA DREDGE
LAT__LAGUNA DREDGE TAP
LIB__LIBERTY
LHP__LITTLE HARQUAUALA PUMP PLANT
LHV__LONG HOUSE VALLEY TAP
LOB__LONE BUTTE
MRN__MARANA
MRK__MARKETPLACE
MCC__McCULLOUGH
MCI__McCONNICO
MED__MEAD
MKT__MEC KINGMAN TAP
MEX__MEXICO TAP
NV__NAVAJO (SRP)
NWD__NEW WADDELL
NON__NO NAME
NGL__NOGALES
NGA__NORTH GILA
NHV__NORTH HAVASU
ORA__ORACLE
PAD__PARKER
PCK__PEACOCK
PES__PERKINS
PHX__PHOENIX
PCO__PICACHO PUMP PLANT
PPK__PINNACLE PEAK
PNT__PLANET
PRS__PRESCOTT
RWY__RACEWAY
RSK__RATTLESNAKE
RRK__RED ROCK PUMP PLANT
RGS__ROGERS
RVL__ROUND VALLEY
SGR__SAGUARO
SGL__SALT GILA PUMP PLANT
SNL__SAN LUIS
SEW__SENATOR WASH
SHR__SHIPROCK
SIG__SIGNAL
SIT__SIPHON DROP IMPERIAL TAP
SON__SONORA
SPT__SOUTHPOINT
SPH__SPOOK HILL
SUD__SUNDANCE
TTT__TEST TRACK
TOP__TOPOCK
TUC__TUCSON
VAF__VALLEY FARMS
WM1__WELLTON MOHAWK PP1
WM2__WELLTON MOHAWK PP2
WM3__WELLTON MOHAWK PP3
WML__WELLTON-MOHAWK-LIGURTA
WMS__WELLTON-MOHAWK
WST__WARM SPRINGS TAP
WWG__WESTWING
YMT__YUMA MESA TAP
YUT__YUMA TAP

CA

EXPLANATION

- MULTILANE DIVIDED
- TWO-LANE, PAVED
- (10) INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- (95) U. S. HIGHWAY
- (95) STATE HIGHWAY
- HYDRO-GENERATING STATION
- HYDRO-GENERATING/PUMPING PLANT
- PUMPING PLANT
- FEDERAL SUBSTATION
- NON-FEDERAL SUBSTATION
- CITY OR TOWN
- NON-FEDERAL STEAM-GENERATING STATION

LEGEND

- PARKER-DAVIS PROJECT
- CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT
- CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT/NAVAJO PROJECT
- COLORADO RIVER STORAGE PROJECT (SOUTHERN DIVISION-CRSP)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST/SOUTHWEST INTERTIE PROJECT (INTERTIE)
- COLORADO RIVER FRONT WORK AND LEVEE SYSTEM
- GILA PROJECT
- BOULDER CANYON PROJECT
- COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL PROJECT
- PUBLIC - NON FEDERAL OR DSW COMM SITE

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

MAY BE EXEMPT FROM PUBLIC RELEASE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (5 U.S.C. 552) EXEMPTION 2 CATEGORY CIRCUMVENTION OF STATUE.

WESTERN REVIEW REQUIRED BEFORE PUBLIC RELEASE.

NAME/DRG: RONALD E. MOULTON - J7000.PH DATE: 7-27-10

D	7-27-10 J7-RM	MINOR REVISIONS
C	1-1-09 G4-RM	ADDED FIREHOUSE AND NO NAME
B	11-7-06 G4-RM	ADDED YUMA MESA TAP
A	4-22-05 G4-RM	ADDED GAVILAN PEAK AND TEST TRACK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
DESERT SOUTHWEST REGION - PHOENIX, ARIZONA

DESERT SOUTHWEST

ARIZONA - CALIFORNIA - NEVADA - NEW MEXICO

CUSTOMER SERVICE REGION

POWER SYSTEM PROJECTS

DESIGNED WAPA APPROVED JAMES H. CHARTERS
TRANSMISSION SYSTEM PLANNING MANAGER