U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Harcuvar - Little Harquahala Pump Plant and Harcuvar - Bouse Hills Pump Plant: Access Road, Pad, Static/Guy Wire Repairs, and Cross-Arm Replacements

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): La Paz County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is proposing to conduct access road and pad repairs along its Harcuvar (HCR) - Little Harquahala Pump Plant (LHP) and HCR - Bouse Hills Pump Plant (BHP) segments. Proposed work also includes repairing static wire at Structure 0/6, guy wire at Structure 16/6, replacing cross-arms on Structures 2/5 and 9/7 of the HCR - LHP segment, and on Structures 2/6, 17/6, 18/4, 18/5, 18/6, 18/7, 20/4, 20/6, 21/1, 21/7, and 22/7 of the HCR-BHP segment.

The access road and pad repairs would include blading and grading the existing road and pad surface; maintaining it to the previously existing condition. All ground disturbance will be limited to the existing road prism and pad footprint; there would be no new access roads or pads developed, and no other ground disturbance as part of this proposal. Additionally, repairs are necessary to a static and guy wire, and many cross-arms on the HCR-LHP and HCR-BHP segments are broken or weathered beyond repair and must be replaced.

Proposed work would be accomplished using a bucket truck, line truck and dozer. Work is expected to begin in July 2018 and take no more than one month to complete. However, work must be completed before February 15, 2019, the expected commencement of the bird breeding season.

See attached 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: Matthew D. Blevins Digitally signed by Matthew D. Blevins Date: 2018.07.09 06:24:05 -06'00' Date Determined: 07/07/2018

HCR – LHP and HCR – BHP
Access Road, Pad, Static/Guy Wire Repairs, and Cross-Arm Replacements
Continuation Sheet

Special Conditions:

1. General
    a. Blading and grading is limited to the existing access road prism and pad footprint. No other ground disturbance is authorized as part of this proposal.

2. Cultural Resources
    a. Do not remove or alter cultural artifacts or paleontological resources (fossils). Cultural artifacts are of potential scientific or cultural importance and include bones, tools, historic buildings, and features. Paleontological resources can be of scientific importance and include mineralized animals and plants or trace fossils such as footprints. Both cultural and paleontological resources are protected by Federal Regulations during Federal construction projects.

    b. On rare occasions cultural or paleontological sites may be discovered during excavation or other earth-moving activities.

        i. Reporting: If evidence of a cultural or paleontological site is discovered, immediately notify the Regional Preservation Officer (602-605-2842) and give the location and nature of the findings. Stop all activities within a 50-foot radius of the discovery and do not proceed with work within that radius until directed to do so by the Regional Preservation Officer.

        ii. Care of Evidence: Do not damage or remove artifacts or fossils uncovered during construction.

    c. Environmentally sensitive areas have been flagged by WAPA's contractor in advance of the work; there will be no ground disturbance within flagged areas.