U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Mead-Peacock (MED-PCK): Insulator Replacements

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Boulder City, Clark County, Nevada

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is proposing to replace broken insulators on the MED-PCK segment, from Structures 1/1 – 5/1. Work would be performed using bucket trucks. Access would be via Burro Wash Road (existing access road). There would be no ground disturbance.

Work would begin October 16, 2017 and take no more than a week to complete.

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: [signature] Date Determined: 10.4.17

Continuation Sheet

MED-PCK: Insulator Replacements at Structures 1/1 – 5/1

Special Conditions

- Desert Bighorn Sheep:
  - During each workday, WAPA's crew shall keep a detailed log of location, date, and time. The preferred method is to use a GPS device in a work vehicle to record a track during the entire workday. Alternatively, keep a written log (table) in the format shown as enclosed. Submit the log (GPS tracks or table) to G04 after the project is complete.
  - If the work is delayed, the work shall not occur from October 30 to November 3, 2017, in order to avoid conflicting with a multi-agency bighorn trapping and collaring project.
- Lake Mead National Recreation Area:
  - Pressure-wash all ground equipment, especially the undersides, to remove all dirt and vegetation in order to avoid introducing or spreading non-native plant material in LMNRA.
  - Before WAPA's work vehicles may enter the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA), LMNRA staff will inspect vehicles for dirt and debris, especially vegetation, and will provide guidance regarding the Mojave Desert Tortoise.
- Vehicles shall stay on designated access roads and pads in order to avoid Mohave Desert Tortoise, Burrowing Owls, and native vegetation. Crew members shall implement their annual environmental awareness training including, but not limited to, watching for and avoiding wildlife on roads.
- Mojave Desert Tortoise:
  - According to the West Area PBO, page 13, Item 12:
    - If the proposed work begins before November 1, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-work survey of all work areas, and sensitive features shall be flagged for avoidance. WAPA's work crews shall avoid all flagged areas.
    - If the proposed work begins on or after November 1, a tortoise survey is not needed.
  - WAPA's crews shall implement Best Management Practices and Standard Operating Procedures including, but not limited to, the following:
    - Watch for tortoises on travel routes and at work areas. Tortoises shall be avoided and allowed to leave on their own. Tortoises shall not be handled. If a tortoise is in harm's way, immediately notify WAPA's Environmental Office at 602-605-2599.
    - Prior to starting operations each day look for tortoises around and under all vehicles and equipment.
    - A speed limit of no more than 25-miles-per-hour is required for all vehicles on the project site and unposted dirt access roads.
    - No pets, other than service animals, are permitted at project sites.
    - At the end of each work day, the work area will be cleaned and free of trash.
- In the event a cultural site, paleontological site, or human remains are discovered, cease work and immediately notify WAPA's Environmental Group at 602-605-2842. Stop all activities within a 50-ft radius of the discovery and do not proceed with work within that radius until directed to do so by WAPA's Environmental Group.

Daily Activity Log to be completed by WAPA's maintenance crew:

Date	Time Begin	Time End	Location (for example, structure number)	Number of Vehicles