U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Mead-Liberty Spacer Replacement between 64-1 and 64-2

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Mohave County, AZ

Proposed Action Description:

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) proposes to replace one (1) spacer between structures 64-1 and 64-2 on the Mead-Liberty 345-kV transmission line corridor, north of Kingman, adjacent to County Highway 149, in Mohave County, AZ. The work is proposed for the week of September 12, 2016, and it is expected to take no more than one week to complete.

Existing access is adequate to reach the project area, with the exception of one wash crossing. WAPA proposes to repair the existing access road through the wash. The work is covered under Nationwide Permit #3 (Maintenance). No other ground disturbance is proposed by this action.

To complete the proposed work, WAPA would use crew trucks to mobilize/demobilize personnel, a bulldozer to complete road repairs, and a bucket truck to lift personnel to the broken spacer; replacement would occur using barehand procedures.

The purpose of the proposed work is to ensure the safety and reliability of the bulk electrical system. Broken spacers can cause damage to the conductors. If the spacer is not replaced, there is a potential for an electrical outage. No special conditions are necessary for the proposed work.

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: 9.9.16