U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Mingus Mountain Microwave Site - Building Replacement

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): South of Jerome, Yavapai County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:
Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Desert Southwest Region (DSW), plans to replace the existing building containing communications equipment and a backup generator at the Mingus Mountain Microwave Site located south of Jerome, Yavapai County, Arizona. WAPA holds an 0.23 acre easement (FS-100PW) from the Forest Service, Prescott National Forest for this facility. It occurs within portions of Sections 2 and 11 in Township 15 North, Range 2 East on the Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian. WAPA plans to use existing access roads to reach this facility. This work is needed to maintain the reliability and safety of the bulk electrical system.

WAPA would temporarily place a prefabricated shelter at the site to house communications equipment while the new building is being constructed in order to keep outages as short as possible. WAPA would demolish the existing building except for the concrete foundation; the construction debris would be disposed at a local existing approved landfill. WAPA would transport to the site an existing prefabricated building stored at Electrical District 5 substation near Eloy, Pinal County, Arizona. WAPA would attach the prefabricated building to the existing concrete foundation, which covers a larger area than the building. WAPA would build a new structure on the remaining portion of the foundation to house a backup generator. WAPA would replace the 30-foot-long underground connections between the new generator location and the existing propane tank, and this may involve rerouting them within the area previously disturbed for the concrete foundations for the propane tank and building. WAPA would continue to use the existing propane tank to run the backup generator.

See Attached Continuation Sheet

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:
B1.19 - Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

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: 2018.10.09 07:48:47 -06'00' Date Determined: 10/09/2018

Mingus Mountain Microwave Site
Building Replacement
Continuation Sheet

Project Description (continued)

WAPA plans to start construction no sooner than October 12, 2018 and complete it no later than September 30, 2020.

LOCATION MAP

Special Conditions:

None.