U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Mesa Substation Soil Remediation Assessment, Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona

Program or Field Office: DOE/Western/Desert Southwest Region

Location(s) (City/County/State): At the northeast corner of Stapley and University Drives in Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:
It entails collecting and analyzing surface and subsurface soil samples for the presence or absence of volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated bipheyls (PCBs), pesticides and eight Resource Conservation and Recovery Act metals within the 9.2-acre Mesa Substation parcel. A phased multi-increment collection strategy is proposed in unpaved areas. We plan to initially excavate 162, 8-inch-diameter auger holes (i.e., 18 per acre) and collect surface samples. In areas where contamination is found, we plan to excavate additional auger holes at a density of 120 per acre. We estimate that 103 such bores will be needed to characterize the location and depth of any contamination. We also plan to test the control and warehouse buildings for presence or absence of asbestos and lead paint. We plan to test abandoned underground pipes for oil residue and asbestos materials such as wrapping, which may entail excavating six to 10 feet below ground surface but mostly within the area previously disturbed for the pipe trench.

Special Conditions:
1) Avoid conducting project-related subsurface disturbance an area located 25 feet either side of the extrapolated centerline of Acequia Enos, which is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Properties. The center line is defined by two points, the first is located on the north property line 320 feet west of the northeast corner, and the second is situated along the east property line 400 feet south of the northeast corner.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:
B3.1 - Site characterization and environmental monitoring

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: 12·12·11