



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Parker-Buckeye and Parker-Hassayampa 230-kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way (ROW) Access Road and Structure Work-Pad Repairs

Program or Field Office: WAPA DSW Phoenix Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): La Paz and Maricopa Counties, AZ

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Desert Southwest Region (DSW) proposes to conduct maintenance along the Parker-Buckeye and Parker-Hassayampa 230-kV Transmission Line systems in Arizona. This maintenance includes repairing ROW access roads to and from each structure and reclaiming the existing ROW staging areas (work-pads) under each structure within each transmission line system.

WAPA maintenance crews will blade and grade (with bulldozers and graders) along existing access roads within the ROW in order to improve access for future maintenance activities.

WAPA maintenance will also clear vegetation and grade the work-pad staging areas under each structure so they can safely work and avoid potential wildfire hazards. WAPA maintenance crews will only clear a 50-foot radius, if necessary, at each structure to allow equipment and vehicles to park safely to perform maintenance activities associated with each transmission line system.

Please see attachment 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: **SEAN BERRY** Digitally signed by SEAN BERRY
Date: 2019.04.09 14:19:21 -07'00'

Date Determined:

Parker-Buckeye and Parker Hassayampa 230-kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way (ROW) Access Road and Work-Pad Repairs Categorical Exclusion Continuation Sheet

Biological Concerns

Nesting birds may occur during the proposed work and repair crews should remain vigilant when assessing work areas prior to disturbance and while conducting any vegetation removal. Any active bird nests (defined as “active” by the presence of eggs or chicks in them) will be avoided via a 50-foot buffer and the buffered area will be left undisturbed until further direction by G0400. Active bird nest locations will be recorded and reported to G0400 as soon as possible.

Cultural Resource Concerns

The following spans of the Parker-Buckeye and Parker-Hassayampa Transmission Line systems will be avoided due to cultural resource concerns.

1. Parker-Buckeye 65-1 to 65-3
2. Parker-Hassayampa 64-4 to 65-2

3. Parker-Buckeye 59-3 to 60-1

4. Parker-Buckeye 44-4 to 44-6
5. Parker-Hassayampa 44-4 to 45-1

6. Parker-Buckeye 45-2 to 45-4
7. Parker-Hassayampa 45-4 to 45-4

Based upon the results of a Class I literature review, no historic properties lie within the area of potential effects. WAPA made a finding of No Historic Properties Affected per Stipulation V.A.1 of the 2013 AZ Programmatic Agreement.

GENERAL: 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

UNKNOWN CULTURAL OR PALEONTOLOGICAL SITES: On rare occasions cultural or paleontological sites may be discovered during excavation or other earth-moving activities.

- (1) **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.

- (1) Care of Evidence: Do not damage or remove artifacts or fossils uncovered during construction.

Donald Lash, NEPA
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