

<b>Project title:</b>	Off ROW Hazard Trees – Trinity-Weaverville 60kV		
<b>Requested By:</b>	Ricardo Velarde	<b>Mail Code :</b>	N1411 <b>Phone:</b> 916-353-4565
<b>Date Submitted:</b>		<b>Date Required:</b>	

**Description of the Project:**

Western Area Power Administration (Western), Sierra Nevada Region (SNR), is responsible for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of federally owned and operated transmission lines throughout California. Western must comply with the National Electric Safety Code, Western States Coordinating Council and Western directives for protecting human safety and maintaining the reliable operation of the transmission system. In order to accomplish this, Western regularly maintains its existing access roads and transmission line rights-of-way (ROW). In those instances where a hazard tree is identified outside of Western’s ROW, Western will coordinate with the appropriate federal agency, landowner or stakeholder to make the hazard tree safe, and ensure compliance with our directives and Western’s O&M program.

O&M activities include vegetation removal using manual or mechanical methods and access road repair and upgrades. Vegetation management may be performed by hand clearing in areas where the sensitive resources are present and require such project conservation measures. Vegetation debris may be chipped and spread out under the ROW or removed from the area.

All conifer trees on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) property greater than 10 inch DBH will be Facility Protect Trim (FPT) for 30 to 35 feet of clearance and the remaining bole of tree will be left standing in place for wild life tree habitat.

**Location of the Project:**

The Trinity-Weaverville 60 kV towers: 0/3, 0/4, 0/5, 0/6, 0/9, 0/10, 1/1, 1/9, 2/18, 3/4, 3/5, 3/16, 4/1, 4/3, 4/4, 4/9, 5/13, 6/8, 6/9, 7/5, 8/10, 8/12, 9/1, 9/2, 11/13, 12/3, 12/5, 12/9, 12/10, 12/12, 13/9, 13/14, 13/15, 13/16, 13/17, 14/1, 14/2, 14/10, 14/11, 14/12, 14/13, 14/14, and 14/15. These towers are located in Trinity County on land managed by the USFS, Bureau of Land Management and private landowners. See attached maps for location of trees.

The Lewiston - Tap towers: T-03. These towers are located in Trinity County. See attached maps for location of trees.

**Attachments: Maps, Letter of Concurrence**

**Work Order Number:**

Western Area Power Administration Sierra Nevada Region	<b>CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION</b>	<b>Project Number:</b> CX110901
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Integral Elements

**Project Title:** Off ROW Hazard Trees – Trinity-Weaverville 60kV

**Category of Action:**

**B1.3:** Routine maintenance/custodial services for buildings, structures, infrastructures, equipment. Maintenance includes repair of road embankments, erosion control and soil stabilization measures such as reseeding and re-vegetation.

**Regulatory Requirements for a Categorical Exclusion Determination:** The Department of Energy (DOE), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021.410(b) require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded (see full text in regulation).

1. The proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Appendixes A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:
  - a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders.
  - b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include categorically excluded facilities.
  - c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products preexisting in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or
  - d. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B (4)).
2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal which may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;
3. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

**Results of Review:** In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021), The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level of NEPA review needed. Based on this review, Western has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of action listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment (EA).

The proposed action meets the above regulatory criteria and there are no significant adverse environmental effects associated with this action.

### Action taken

Note: All Documentation is Attached

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion (CX) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimization |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integral Elements          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEPA Attachment Sheet                 |  |

**Determination:** Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion listed above. Therefore, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.



Gerald Robbins  
NEPA Compliance Officer

10/20/2011

Date

Approved

CC: Requestor:	File Code:	Assigned to: Ricardo Velarde	Project #: CX110901	Environmental Specialist:  Date: 10/20/11
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