



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: WAPA's Fall Protection Training Facility - Phase I

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration, Headquarters

Location(s) (City/County/State): Mead Substation, Henderson, NV

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) proposes to recondition and utilize a semi-vacant lot (~4.5 acres) within WAPA's Mead Substation boundary for a WAPA fall protection training facility (WFPTF). Construction of the WFPTF would occur in two phases. This NEPA determination is for Phase I of the proposed WFPTF. Phase I consists of the following work:

- Replace two entrance gates;
- Repair existing asphalt roads;
- Remove decorative vegetation;
- Relocate dirt from the proposed substation equipment area to the proposed communication equipment area and perform grading to ensure proper drainage;
- Install concrete pads for the proposed equipment and perform re-surfacing on equipment area;
- Install "retired" WAPA owned equipment (transformers, circuit breakers, communications structures, a disconnect switch, a capacitor bank platform, wood H frames, poles, and transmission lines) to be used for climbing and training purposes only. None of the equipment will be grid connected and any oil-containing equipment will be drained of oil prior to transport and installation at the the proposed WFPTF.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3 - Routine maintenance

B4.6 - Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

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)

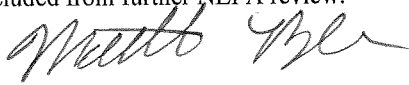
The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

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: 

Date Determined: October 13, 2016

WAPA's Fall Protection Training Facility - Phase I – CONTINUATION SHEET

All project activities will be conducted within previously disturbed areas of the existing fenced Mead substation. All construction activities are expected to occur between the months of November 2016 through March 2016. Equipment used on-site may include aerial man-lifts, hydraulic excavators, auger-type earth drills, concrete trucks, loaders and pickup trucks.

Access to Mead Substation and the proposed WFPTF is via existing and maintained roadways. No new rights-of-way or temporary construction easements are required for the proposed WFPTF.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

Cultural: The proposed WFPTF project occurs wholly within the Mead Substation fence. This work is covered by WAPA's Programmatic Agreement for Nevada. There are no cultural issues.

Biological: The Desert Tortoise occurs in this area. However, installation of the training equipment, road repairs, and other activities are expected to occur between the months of November 2016 through March 2016 when the tortoises are inactive. Personnel are still required to travel slowly through this area and refer to the attached Desert Tortoise guidance.

Disposal of Oil: If any equipment oil requires disposal, the oil must be turned over to the DSW Environmental Office for proper disposal.

An additional NEPA review is required prior to implementing Phase II.