U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Spook Hill Substation Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, Oil-Filled Equipment Removal, and Demolition

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

Spook Hill Substation (SPH) was commissioned and placed in service in 1983 and then was de-activated in 2016. This facility is in an urban setting near the NW corner of University Drive and Sossaman Drive, approximately 25 miles northeast of downtown Mesa AZ. SPH has been identified as a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) site. Several pieces of oil-filled equipment, including two 230 kV power transformers, are located at SPH. One transformer (KW1B) is known to have
leaked transformer oil in the past.

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) proposes to conduct a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) to evaluate the extent of possible contamination. The ESA will include an asbestos/lead survey of the control building for possible asbestos and lead.

WAPA proposes to drain, remove and dispose of all electrical equipment present at SPH and to treat or remove any oil-contaminated soil. WAPA also proposes to remove the control building, foundations and concrete pads, and cable trenches within SPH and remove approx. 650 ft of OGW and conductor, as well as a 2-pole wood structure (SPH-SGL 0-1A&B) and a 3-pole wood structure (SPH-SGL 0-2A,B,&C) located to the north of SPH. All ground disturbance areas would be returned to grade with ABC gravel and/or native soil as appropriate.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.1 - Site characterization and environmental monitoring

B4.10 - Removal of electric transmission facilities

B6.1 - Cleanup actions

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: NATALIE ORTEGA Digitally signed by NATALIE ORTEGA Date: 2023.01.27 07:34:18 -07'00' Date Determined: 1/27/2023