U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Gila 69-kV Switchyard Rebuild Project

Program or Field Office: WAPA DSW

Location(s) (City/County/State): Yuma County, AZ

Proposed Action Description:
Project includes the removal of all abandoned-in-place 161-kV equipment, structures, bus and foundations and construction of a new 69-kV switchyard within the Gila substation. New equipment to be installed includes a 4-bay 69-kV switchyard, 2 new 69/34.5-kV 20 MVA transformers, a new 16.2 MVAR shunt capacitor bank, new panels, controls, relays and communications equipment. In addition, the scope includes replacement of a communications tie-in (fiber-optic) and backup power feed to the USBR-owned Yuma-Mesa Pumping Plant through existing underground infrastructure. Furthermore, 6 new pole structures will be required to re-route the existing 69-kV transmission lines to the new switchyard. The T-line work all falls within the bounds of the Gila Substation. Lastly, work includes minor grading and ground disturbance as needed to complete the above and to provide adequate erosion control in the vicinity of the substation.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:
B4.11 - Electric power substations and interconnection 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: NATALIE ORTEGA Digitally signed by NATALIE ORTEGA Date: 2023.02.08 11:22:46 -07'00' Date Determined: 2/8/2023