

**REVISED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND FLOODPLAIN STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

**Gila to North Gila Transmission Line Rebuild and Upgrade Project
Yuma County, Arizona
DOE/EA-1948**

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration

ACTION: Revised Finding of No Significant Impact and Floodplain Statement of Findings

BACKGROUND: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Western Area Power Administration (Western) proposed to rebuild and upgrade the existing 4.8-mile-long Gila to North Gila 69-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line and the existing 4.8-mile-long segment of the Gila-Knob 161-kV Transmission Line situated between the Gila and North Gila substations as well as alter existing right-of-ways. Western would conduct this action in partnership with Arizona Public Service (APS) as part of their 13.3-mile-long North Gila-Orchard 230-kV Transmission Line Project. Western would temporarily relocate the existing Gila-North Gila 69-kV circuit to APS's North Gila-Orchard 230-kV Transmission Line structures as an underbuild. This relocation would occur concurrently with the North Gila-Orchard 230-kV Transmission Line Project. At a later date, Western would rebuild the existing Gila-Knob 161-kV line and upgrade it to 230-kV on new steel structures and permanently move the Gila-North Gila 69-kV circuit from APS's structures to the new Gila-Knob structures as an underbuild.

Western prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing three alternatives: the Proposed Action that crosses Western's Gila Substation, the Certificated Route Alternative that does not cross Gila Substation, and a No Action Alternative. The EA was completed in February 2014 and was called "Environmental Assessment for the Gila to North Gila Transmission Line Rebuild and Upgrade Project (DOE/EA-1948)." Western incorporates this EA by reference.

On March 21, 2014, Western selected the Proposed Action and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact. On April 20, 2015, however, APS asked Western to instead consider selecting the Certificated Route Alternative. The action alternatives are the same, except that in the Certificated Route Alternative APS's transmission line route is 0.5 miles longer than in the Proposed Action, because it swings east to avoid Gila Substation.

Western previously determined that the Certificated Route Alternative would have no effect to species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Western consulted with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The undertaking was defined as Western's actions associated with the Proposed Action and Certification Route Alternatives presented in the EA. On December 30, 2013, the SHPO concurred with Western's finding of no adverse effect (SHPO-2013-1120).

DETERMINATION: Western determines that the Certificated Route Alternative to rebuild and upgrade the Gila-North Gila and Gila-Knob transmission lines does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) based on the analysis contained in DOE/EA-1948. In addition, Western determines that the Certificated Route Alternative would not adversely affect floodplains or wetlands, based on the analysis of Water Resources and Floodplains in the EA (Pages 3-68 to 3-76).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Additional information and copies of the EA and Revised FONSI are available to all interested parties and the public from the following contact:

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The EA and Revised FONSI can be downloaded from Western's website or the U.S. Department of Energy's website at:

<http://www.wapa.gov/dsw/environment/GilaToNorthGilaRebuild.htm>

<http://energy.gov/nepa/ea-1948-gila-north-gila-transmission-line-rebuild-and-upgrade-project-yuma-county-arizona>

For further information on the DOE NEPA process, contact:

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