

# MEMORANDUM

DATE:

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: G0400SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment Determination for the MPP-Q01 Interconnection Project, Yavapai County,  
Arizona

TO: File

The Arizona Public Service (APS) MPP-Q01 Interconnection project would interconnect with the Mead-Perkins 525-kV (MDE-PES) transmission line, which is operated and maintained by The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). The entire project would be located within Yavapai County, Arizona. The project would consist of the following elements:

- A new APS transmission line. This line would be approximately 14 miles in length and operated at either 115-kV or 230-kV. The line would run from WAPA's MDE-PES line, north toward the town of Bagdad, AZ. APS will also run a fiber optic cable along the new transmission line from the interconnection point to the APS Bagdad Substation.
- A new APS substation (TS-01) located at the southern terminus of the proposed line.
- A second new APS substation (TS-02) located at the northern terminus of the proposed line.
- A new WAPA switchyard (MPP-Q01) located between the MDE-PES line and the TS-01 substation.
- A new WAPA microwave transmission tower, located near structure MDE-PES 169-5.
- A second new WAPA microwave transmission tower, located adjacent to the existing communication facilities at Pete Smith Peak.

WAPA proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental effects of the project. Construction of the new APS transmission line fits within category C4 (Upgrading, Rebuilding or Construction of Powerlines) of Appendix C to Subpart D of part 1021 (Classes of actions that normally require EAs but not necessarily EISs) under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Category C4 (Upgrading, Rebuilding, or Construction of Powerlines) is applicable since the new line would be more than approximately 10 miles in length outside previously disturbed or developed powerline or pipeline rights-of-way. The proposed construction of two new substations, a switchyard, and two new microwave transmission towers are each individually considered to be connected actions under 40 CFR §1508.25(a)(1) and therefore will be discussed in the same EA.

**Determination:** In accordance with my responsibilities under Section 3.b of the Department of Energy Policy 451.1, NEPA Compliance Program, I have determined that it is appropriate to prepare an EA to analyze the effects of the proposed project. Based on the analyses and findings in the EA, WAPA will either prepare a finding of no significant impact and proceed with the action or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if the EA reveals the potential for significant environmental impacts. Matt Pollock will be the NEPA Document Manager for the EA and can be reached at [mpollock@wapa.gov](mailto:mpollock@wapa.gov).

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Jack D. Murray  
Senior Vice President and  
Desert Southwest Regional Manager

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