



# U.S. Department of Energy

## Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: GRICUA 20 MW Load Relocation Project

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) - Desert Southwest Region

Location(s) (City/County/State): Coolidge, Pinal County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) has requested WAPA services to relocate 20 megawatts (MW) of GRICUA's current load from the COL-SCI 115-kV transmission line. 20 MW would be relocated from the existing 115-kV system to the 69-kV system with a new interconnection point at the Coolidge Substation 69-kV yard (Project). The Coolidge Substation is owned and operated by WAPA. WAPA will design the interconnection and GRICUA will be responsible for procurement of all the equipment and construction of the Project.

GRICUA will construct a new 69-kV transmission line which will connect to a new 69-kV bay within Coolidge Substation and be operated radially. GRICUA will install jumpers on an approach structure and the associated hardware and conductor just outside Coolidge Substation. The new bay will be constructed within the Coolidge 69-kV yard which will be laid out in a breaker-and-a-half configuration but will be operated as a two-breaker ring bus. One dead-end structure will be installed inside Coolidge Substation for the approach span as well as electrical equipment for switching, relay, control, protection, and communication.

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: 2024.07.17 15:51:14 -07'00'

Date Determined: 07/17/2024