



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Gila 34.5-kV Switchyard Rebuild Project

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

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

Proposed Action Description:

WAPA's Gila Substation was built between 1942 and 1943. Equipment in the 34.5-kV switchyard was manufactured in the 1940s and is beyond its service life which has caused numerous maintenance issues. WAPA will rebuild the 34.5-kV yard in the location of the current 69-kV yard after the 69-kV yard is demolished. The 69-kV yard will be rebuilt in the location of the former 161-kV yard. The 34.5-kV switchyard will be rebuilt in a breaker-and-a-half configuration using 69-kV clearances and standards to increase safety within the yard and will be operated at 34.5-kV. Breaker-and-a-half configuration offers more reliability, operational flexibility, and contingencies than main-and-transfer configuration, should multiple failures occur.

Gila Substation contains several pieces of oil-filled equipment, metal towers and structures, a former oil-pump-house building, a control building with a basement, and an abandoned below ground septic system. WAPA will complete a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) to identify remediation needs for the 69-kV and 34.5-kV yards which includes soil sampling, concrete foundation and pipe sampling, and asbestos and lead surveys. WAPA will complete the appropriate remediation treatments depending on results of the Phase II ESA.

All abandoned in place 69-kV equipment, structures, conductors, control and panels, septic tank, and foundations will be removed. New equipment to be installed includes a 34.5-kV shunt capacitor bank and associated controls, switches, and instrument transformers, control panels in the control house located in the new 161-kV switchyard, control cables from the 34.5-kV equipment to the 69-kV switchyard to new control panels, and dielectric frequency response in the control house located in the new 161-kV switchyard. Three 34.5-kV transmission lines will be transferred to the new switchyard and tie lines will be transferred from the 69/34.5kV KZ5A and KZ5B transformers to the new switchyard. Sitework will include improving drainage and erosion issues.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B4.11 - Electric power substations and interconnection facilities
- B1.23 - Demolition and disposal of buildings
- B1.16 - Asbestos removal
- B1.17 - Polychlorinated biphenyl removal
- B1.34 - Lead-based paint containment, removal, and disposal

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: 2024.08.12
10:24:52 -0700

Date Determined: **8/12/2024**