



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**MPP-Q01 Interconnection Request
Yavapai County, Arizona
DOE/EA-2208**

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

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

BACKGROUND: Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) must respond to Arizona Public Service's (APS) transmission interconnection request in accordance with WAPA's Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) and applicable provisions of the Federal Power Act (FPA). APS proposes to interconnect its planned 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to WAPA's Mead-Perkins 525-kV transmission line. WAPA's proposed federal action is to grant or deny the transmission interconnection request (the Proposed Action), and if granted, enter into a transmission interconnection agreement with APS and implement transmission and communication system additions to accommodate the interconnection. The purpose of the transmission interconnection agreement is to ensure that the request will not degrade existing transmission reliability, safety, and service.

To accommodate the interconnection, WAPA would do the following:

- Obtain right-of-way (ROW), construct, own, and operate a new 500-kV switchyard, up to 35 acres in size and containing up to four 500-kV breaker bays, located between the Mead-Perkins 525-kV line and APS's new TS-01 Substation. The MPP-Q01 switchyard would be the Point of Interconnection (POI),
- Install and maintain a microwave tower adjacent to the existing communication facilities at Pete Smith Peak to maintain WAPA radio communications with the MPP-Q01 switchyard, as well as maintain communication with the TS-01 and TS-02 substations that will be constructed, operated, and maintained by APS.
- Obtain ROW and install and maintain a microwave tower approximately 10 miles southeast of the interconnect location, near Mead-Perkins 525-kV transmission structure 169-5. This tower will be used as a relay station between the MPP-Q01 switchyard and the Pete Smith Peak microwave tower to provide microwave communications to the POI.
- Provide redundant communications to the POI, by using dedicated capacity on an APS-owned and installed Optical Ground Wire (OGW) fiber optic cable along the new transmission line from the POI to APS's TS-01 substation.

APS's privately developed facilities (APS's Private Action) would include the following:

- Construction, operation, and maintenance of a 14-mile long 230-kV transmission line.
- Construction, operation, and maintenance of an approximately 15-acre substation adjacent to the MPP-Q01 switchyard, to be known as TS-01, which would include up to two 525/230/34.5-kV transformers and associated switch gear.
- Construction, operation, and maintenance of an approximately 15-acre substation at the north end of the proposed transmission line, to be known as TS-02, which would include up to two 230/115-kV transformers, up to two 230/69-kV transformers, and associated switch gear.
- Construction, operation, and maintenance of a 14-mile-long fiber optic cable along the new transmission line from TS-01 to APS's Bagdad Substation via APS's Willow Lake 115-kV transmission line. WAPA would use dedicated capacity on this cable for redundant communications for the MPP-Q01 switchyard.

WAPA does not have the authority to approve or deny APS's privately developed facilities. While APS's Private Action is not part of the Proposed Action, it is described alongside the Proposed Action to aid the analysis. WAPA's Proposed Action, APS's Private Action, and their environmental effects are described and disclosed in the Final Environmental Assessment (FEA). APS's Private Action and the aspects of WAPA's Proposed Action that involve physical modifications to WAPA's system are collectively referred to as the Project. The term Project as defined and used in the EA is not intended to align with the definition of that term in the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures.

The POI to WAPA's transmission system would be located on Arizona State Trust Land, in Section 15, Township 12N, Range 9W Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian. The Project would occur on Arizona State Trust Land, private property, and land administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

WAPA is the lead federal agency and prepared a FEA analyzing the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative, titled "Final Environmental Assessment for the MPP-Q01 Interconnection Request" dated April 16, 2026. WAPA incorporates this FEA into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by reference.

DETERMINATION: Based on the analysis contained in DOE/EA-2208, WAPA finds that the Proposed Action—to respond to APS's transmission interconnection request, enter into a transmission interconnection agreement, and implement transmission and communication system additions to accommodate the interconnection—will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required, and WAPA issues this FONSI.

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

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The FEA and FONSI can be downloaded from WAPA's or DOE's website at:

<https://www.wapa.gov/about-wapa/regions/dsw/environment/mpp-q01-interconnection-project/>

<https://www.energy.gov/nepa/nepa-documents>

For further information on DOE's NEPA process, contact:

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