



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Parker Dam to Gila 161-kV Transmission Line, Cross Arm Replacement at Structure 0/7

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Regional Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): San Bernardino County, California

Proposed Action Description:

Western proposes to conduct cross arm replacements at a single wood H-frame structure located on the existing Parker Dam to Gila 161-kV transmission line. Structure 0/7 is located on private lands in Township 2 North, Range 27 East, Section 4, San Bernardino County, California, about 12 miles northeast of Parker, Arizona.

The wood cross arms on structure 0/7 will be replaced in-kind. Access to the structure will be via existing dirt roads. The existing spur road from the main access road to structure 0/7 has become degraded and will require improvements (i.e., grubbing, blading). The spur road is about 170 linear feet. An equipment pad (about 80 ft by 50 ft) will be bladed at the base of structure 0/7 to provide a level work area for equipment set-up. Equipment used on site will include bucket trucks, line trucks, crew trucks (F-350s or similar), and bulldozers.

The work will take place between July 22, 2013, and October 31, 2013. The on-site repairs will take about 2 days to complete.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3 - Routine maintenance

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: *Ebenezer M. Garcia for Linda M. Riant* Date Determined: *7/23/13*

Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Region Parker-Gila 161-kV Transmission Line Maintenance, Cross Arm Replacements at Structure 0/7 - Continuation Sheet

Special Conditions

Biological Resources

1. To avoid impacts to nesting birds, project activities will be scheduled between **August 1 and February 15**, as feasible. Crews shall not cause injury or death to nesting birds, active nests, eggs, or nestlings. If evidence of a nesting bird is found in the project area, crews shall immediately stop work in that area until Western's Environmental Group has been contacted.
2. A qualified biologist will be present during all project activities and serve as the project's Biological Monitor. The Biological Monitor will be authorized by Western to temporarily halt construction activity if needed to prevent harm to desert tortoise. The Biological Monitor's responsibilities will include, but will not be limited to the following:
 - a. Inspection of locations of any tortoise burrows or sign that were located during the pre-construction survey (#3, below);
 - b. Monitoring activity of these species on or near the project alignment;
 - c. Regular inspection of the work areas, including access routes and other areas related to project activities, for desert tortoise;
 - d. Regular inspection beneath vehicles and equipment to ensure that they do not present potential hazards to wildlife, including desert tortoises.
3. No more than 2 days prior to project construction at any location, a qualified biologist will survey the project alignment, including transmission line access road and associated work sites (e.g., turnout areas) for desert tortoise, tortoise burrows or other sign.
4. No project activities will take place in the vicinity of a desert tortoise. If a desert tortoise is observed, it will be left to move away from the work site on its own. The Biological Monitor and all workers shall regularly observe the work areas for desert tortoise. At any time a desert tortoise is seen within or near any work area (including access road, turnouts, etc.), the Biological Monitor and project supervisor will be immediately notified. No desert tortoises will be handled during this project; **only an Authorized Biologist (as authorized by USFWS) may handle a desert tortoise.**
5. The Biological Monitor will conduct employee training to ensure that all workers on the project site (including contractors) are aware of all applicable avoidance measures for biological resources and are informed of civil and criminal penalties for violations of the federal ESA and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
6. Crews shall be responsible for the following:
 - a. Limit all activities to approved work areas;
 - b. Check beneath and around vehicles and equipment before moving them;
 - c. Report any desert tortoise observation in the project area and access routes, to the supervisor or Biological Monitor;

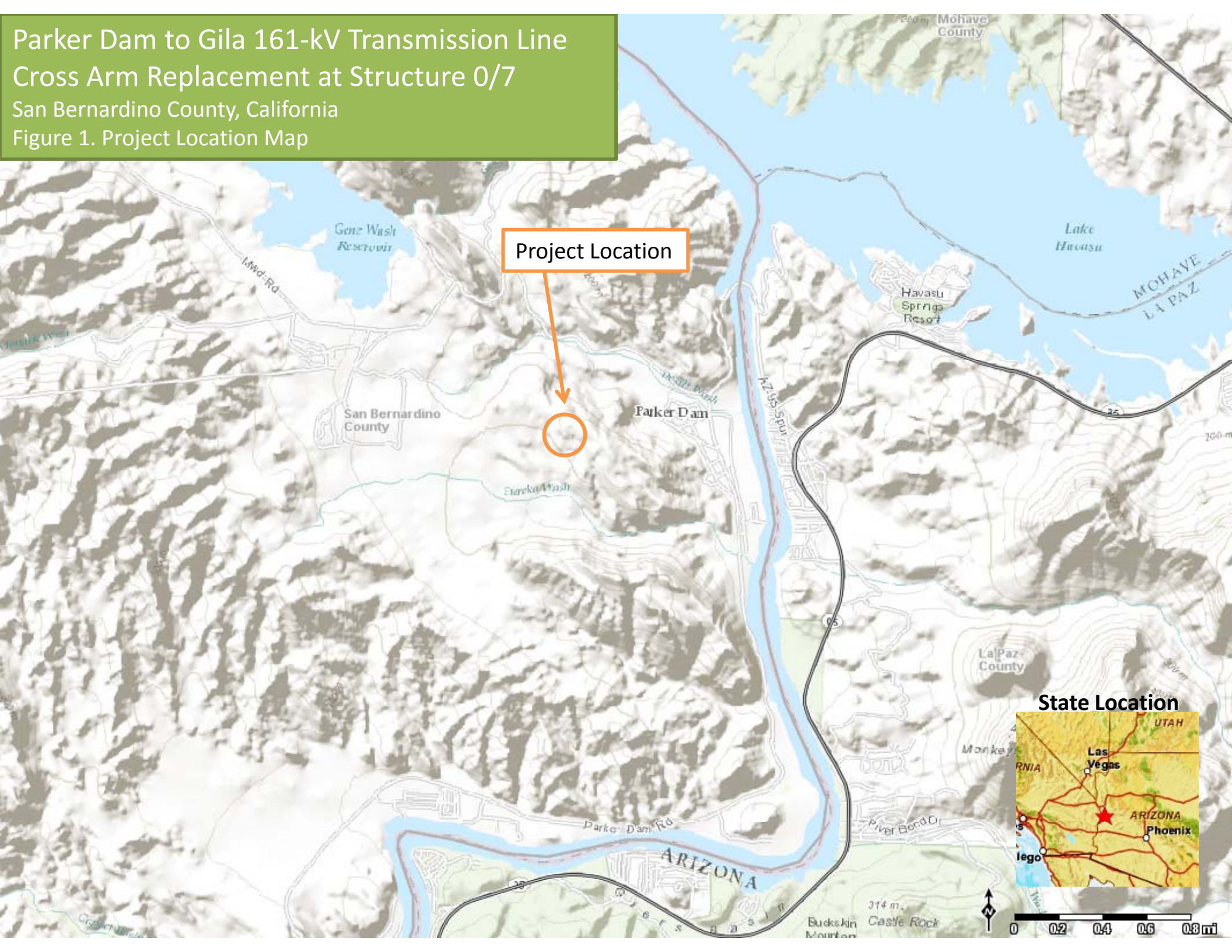
- d. Avoid contact with any wildlife that may approach a work area;
 - e. Pick up and properly dispose of any food, trash or construction refuse; and
 - f. Report any spilled materials (oil, fuel, solvent, engine coolant, raw concrete, or other material potentially hazardous to wildlife), to the supervisor or Biological Monitor.
7. Vehicles will not exceed 20 miles per hour on access roads.
 8. No pets will be permitted in any project areas.

Checklist for Categorical Exclusion Determination, revised Nov. 2011

Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)	Disagree	Agree	Unknown
(b)(1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix A or B to subpart D.		X	
(b)(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; and unresolved conflicts concerning alternate uses of available resources		X	
(b)(3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Segmentation can occur when a proposal is broken down into small parts in order to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. The scope of a proposal must include the consideration of connected and cumulative actions, that is, the 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 § 1021.211 of this part concerning limitations on actions during EIS preparation.		X	
B. Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B. :	NO	YES	UNKNOWN
(1) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.	X		
(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;	X		
(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;	X		
(4) Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. An environmentally sensitive resource is typically a resource that has been identified as needing protection through Executive Order, statute, or regulation by Federal, state, or local government, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. An action may be categorically excluded if, although sensitive resources are present, the action would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on those resources (such as construction of a building with its foundation well above a sole-source aquifer or upland surface soil removal	X		

on a site that has wetlands). Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to:			
(i) Property (such as sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by a Federal, state, or local government, or property determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;	X		
(ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat) or Federally- proposed or candidate species or their habitat (Endangered Species Act); state-listed or state-proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; Federally-protected marine mammals and Essential Fish Habitat (Marine Mammal Protection Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act); and otherwise Federally-protected species (such as under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act);	X		
(iii) Floodplains and wetlands (as defined in 10 CFR 1022.4, —Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements: “Definitions,” or its successor);	X		
(iv) Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national monuments, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges, scenic areas (such as National Scenic and Historic Trails or National Scenic Areas), and marine sanctuaries;	X		
(v) Prime or unique farmland, or other farmland of statewide or local importance, as defined at 7 CFR 658.2(a), —Farmland Protection Policy Act: Definitions, or its successor;	X		
(vi) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and	X		
(vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests.; or	X		
(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 of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.	X		

Parker Dam to Gila 161-kV Transmission Line
Cross Arm Replacement at Structure 0/7
San Bernardino County, California
Figure 1. Project Location Map



Parker Dam to Gila 161-kV Transmission Line
Cross Arm Replacement at Structure 0/7
San Bernardino County, California
Figure 2. Project Area Map



Existing Access Road

0/7

San Bernardino
County

Project Location

