



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Liberty-Parker Dam #2 230-kV Transmission Line, Optical Power Ground Wire Repair

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Buckeye, Maricopa County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

Western proposes to bury the optical power ground wire (OPGW) in the static wire associated with the Liberty (LIB) to Parker Dam (PAD) #2 230-kV transmission line in Maricopa County, Arizona. The proposed project is located between structures 105/2 and 110/3 on Bureau of Land Management (BLM), State, and private lands in Township 2 North, Range 4 West, Sections 15, 16, 22, 26, 27, 35; and Township 1 North, Range 4 West, Sections 1, 2, and 12. The existing overhead OPGW between structures 105/2 to 110/3 has been damaged by gun fire. The OPGW has been spliced and placed on the ground surface to temporarily restore service. The purpose of the proposed project is to bury the OPGW to provide safe and continuous communication along the transmission line.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.7 - Fiber optic cable

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: *Linda Mauerit*

Date Determined: *8-22-13*

Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Region

Liberty-Parker #2 230-kV Transmission Line

Optical Power Ground Wire Repairs - Continuation Sheet

Project Description

The scope of work includes digging a trenching and burying a 1.25-inch OPGW conduit. The conduit trench will be about 4 feet deep and 10 inches wide, with warning tape placed above the conduit in the trench. Once the conduit has been placed, the trench will be backfilled with the original surface material. About 5.3 linear miles of trenching will be required, mostly within the existing dirt access road associated with the LIB-PAD #2 transmission line. Four pullboxes will be installed along the route. The pullboxes measure 2 feet by 3 feet by 2 feet and will be installed at least 24 inches below grade. An approximately 109-foot trench will be required to connect three of the pullboxes to the main OPGW trench in the access road. At each of these pullboxes, 1.25-inch electrical metallic tubing (EMT) will be installed up the structure leg to an existing splice case. A fourth pullbox will be installed in the access road south of structure 109/3.

Project work will be conducted using bulldozers, backhoes, reel trailers, and pickup trucks. Staging will be conducted in a disturbed portion of the transmission line corridor at the south end of the project area. The exact staging location has not been identified to date.

The project is anticipated to start no sooner than July 29, 2013, pending applicable permits, and will take 3 to 4 weeks to complete.

Special Conditions

Biological Resources

1. BREEDING BIRDS: Project activities will be scheduled between August 1 and February 15, as feasible. Project activities involving vegetation disturbance or removal occurring during the breeding bird season (February 16-July 31) will be subject to pre-construction surveys by a qualified biologist. Project activities may not disturb an active bird nest. If an active bird nest is located on or adjacent to the project area, the biologist will designate and flag an appropriate buffer area around the nest where activities will not be permitted.
2. TORTOISES: No project activities will take place in the vicinity of a desert tortoise. All workers shall regularly check the project area, including beneath vehicles and equipment, for desert tortoise. At any time a desert tortoise is seen within or near any work area (including access roads, turnouts, staging areas, etc.), the project supervisor will be immediately notified and the tortoise allowed to leave the work area on its own. If a tortoise is located in imminent harm's way, the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) will be contacted immediately. Desert tortoises may only be handled or moved by personnel as approved by Western Environmental Group, per the Arizona Game and Fish Department *Guidelines for Handling Desert Tortoises* (attached).

Cultural Resources

3. If evidence of a cultural or paleontological site is discovered, cease work in the area immediately and notify the COR of the location and nature of the findings. Stop all activities within a 200-

foot radius of the discovery and do not proceed with work within that radius until directed to do so by the COR.

Air Quality

4. GENERAL: Ensure that construction activities and the operation of equipment are undertaken to reduce the emission of air pollutants. Contractor shall complete and submit a Dust Control Permit Application Form and a Dust Control Plan Application Form plus pay any permit fees to Maricopa County Air Quality Control Board before construction activities begin within Maricopa County. Submit the appropriate fee (depending on total surface area disturbed) with your Dust Control Permit and Plan Application Forms. A copy of Permit and Plan application forms will need to be submitted to the COR 14 days prior to the start of work. Check www.maricopa.gov/aq/divisions/compliance/dust/resources.aspx#dust_applications for additional information.
 - a. Construction activities consist of the following: land stripping, earthmoving, blasting, trenching, road construction, grading, landscaping, stockpiling/storing/loading excavated materials, or any other activity associated with land development which results in a disturbed surface area or dust generating operations, equal to or greater than 0.1 acres.
5. MACHINERY AIR EMISSIONS: The Contractor and subcontractor machinery shall have and shall use the air emissions control devices required by Federal, State or Local regulation or ordinance.
6. DUST ABATEMENT: Dust shall be controlled as listed in the Maricopa County's Fugitive Dust Guidance Rule 310. The Contractor shall familiarize himself with Rule 310 and the Dust Control Handbook. Oil shall not be used as a dust suppressant. Dust suppressants shall be approved by the COR prior to use.

Water Quality

7. GENERAL: Ensure that surface and ground water is protected from pollution caused by construction activities and comply with applicable regulations and requirements. Ensure that streams, waterways and other courses are not obstructed or impaired unless the appropriate Federal, State or local permits have been obtained.
8. PERMITS:
 - a) If the disturbed construction area equals 1 acre or more, the Contractor shall obtain a storm water Construction General Permit and be responsible for preparation and implementation of the associated Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). A storm water Construction General Permit shall be obtained from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) as appropriate. Disturbed areas include staging, parking, fueling, stockpiling, and any other construction related activities. The Contractor shall submit to ADEQ a Notice of Intent Application and appropriate fees (depending on total surface area disturbed). Refer to <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/cgp.html> for directions and forms.
 - b) If a general permit is required, then the Contractor must develop and implement a SWPPP that satisfies the conditions of the permit. The SWPPP shall be kept on-site of

the construction activities. The SWPPP is site-specific and shall meet the following conditions listed below:

- i. Identify potential sources of storm water pollution at the construction site.
 - ii. Describe practices to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges from construction site. Reduction of pollutants is often achieved by controlling the volume of storm water runoff (e.g., taking steps to allow storm water to infiltrate into the soil.
 - iii. Identify procedures the operator will implement to comply with the terms and conditions of a construction general permit.
- c) The Contractor shall obtain a dewatering permit from the appropriate agency if required for construction dewatering activities.
- d) The Contractor shall submit copies of permits and plans, approved by the appropriate regulating agencies, to the COR 14 days prior to start of work.

Lands/Realty

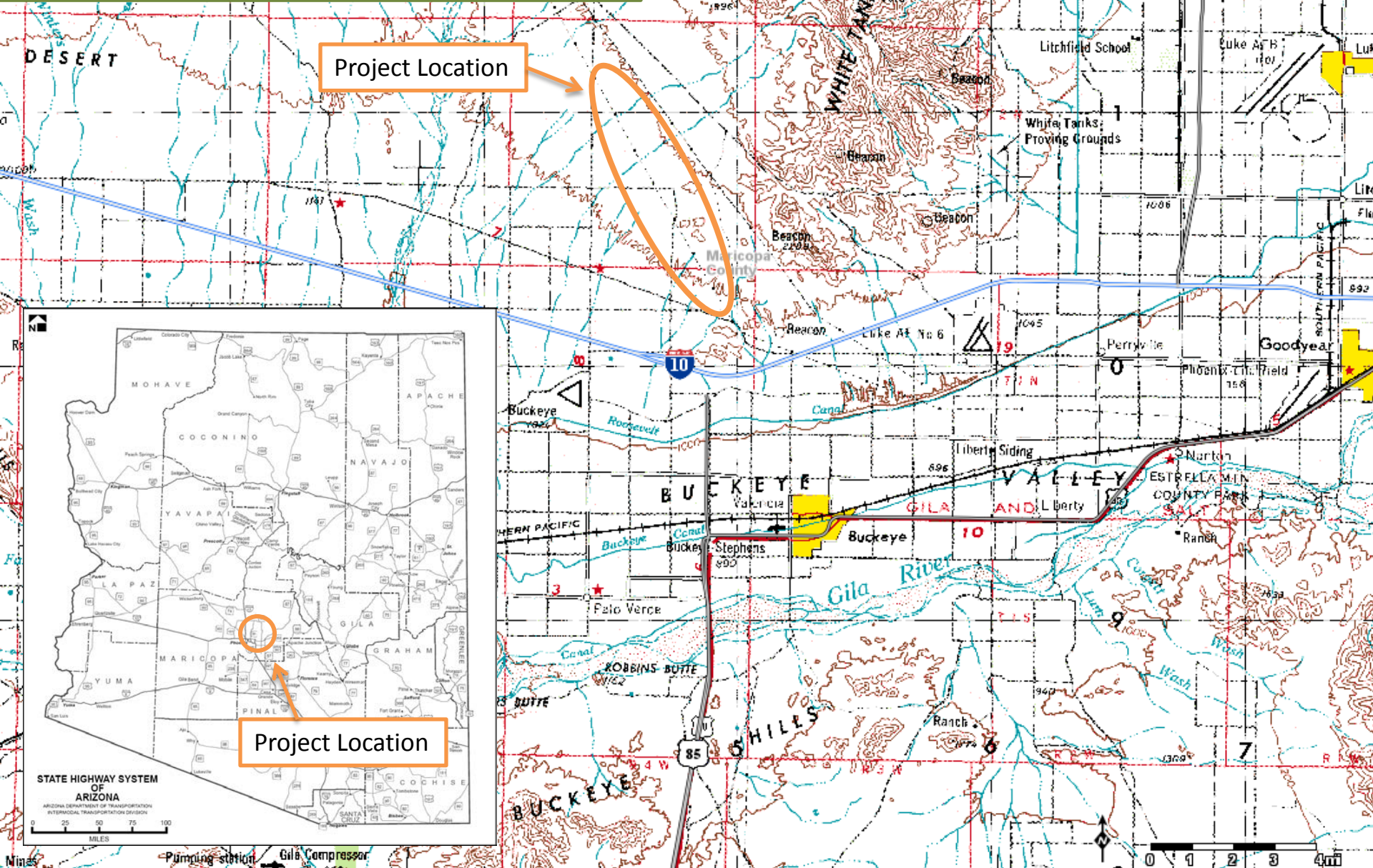
9. No project activities shall occur until a new easement agreement has been issued.

Checklist for Categorical Exclusion Determination, revised Nov. 2011

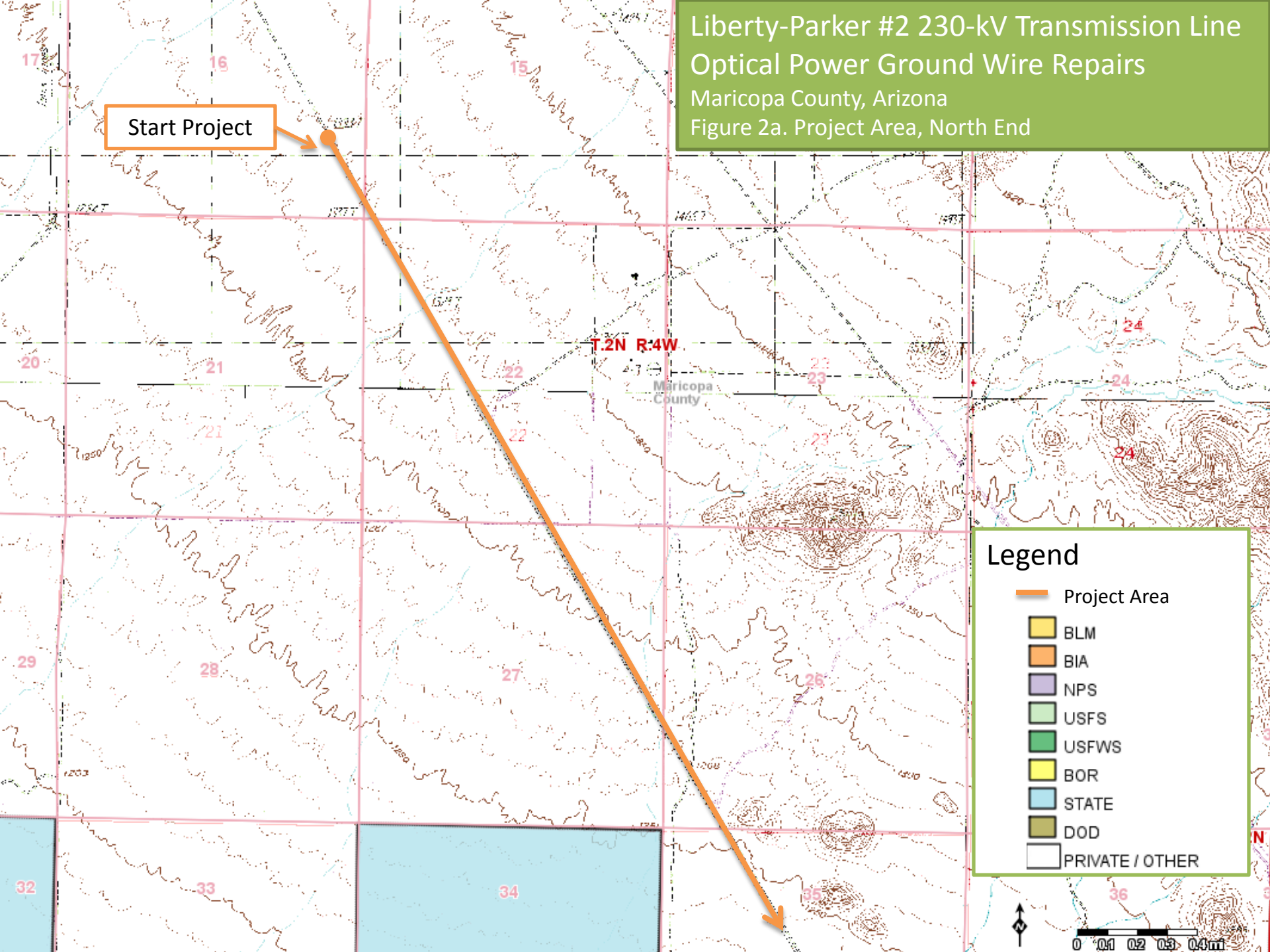
Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)	Disagree	Agree	Unknown
(b)(1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix A or B to subpart D.		X	
(b)(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental 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 on a site that has wetlands). Environmentally sensitive	X		

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		

Liberty-Parker #2 230-kV Transmission Line
Optical Power Ground Wire Repairs
Maricopa County, Arizona
Figure 1. Project Location Map



Liberty-Parker #2 230-kV Transmission Line
Optical Power Ground Wire Repairs
Maricopa County, Arizona
Figure 2a. Project Area, North End



Start Project

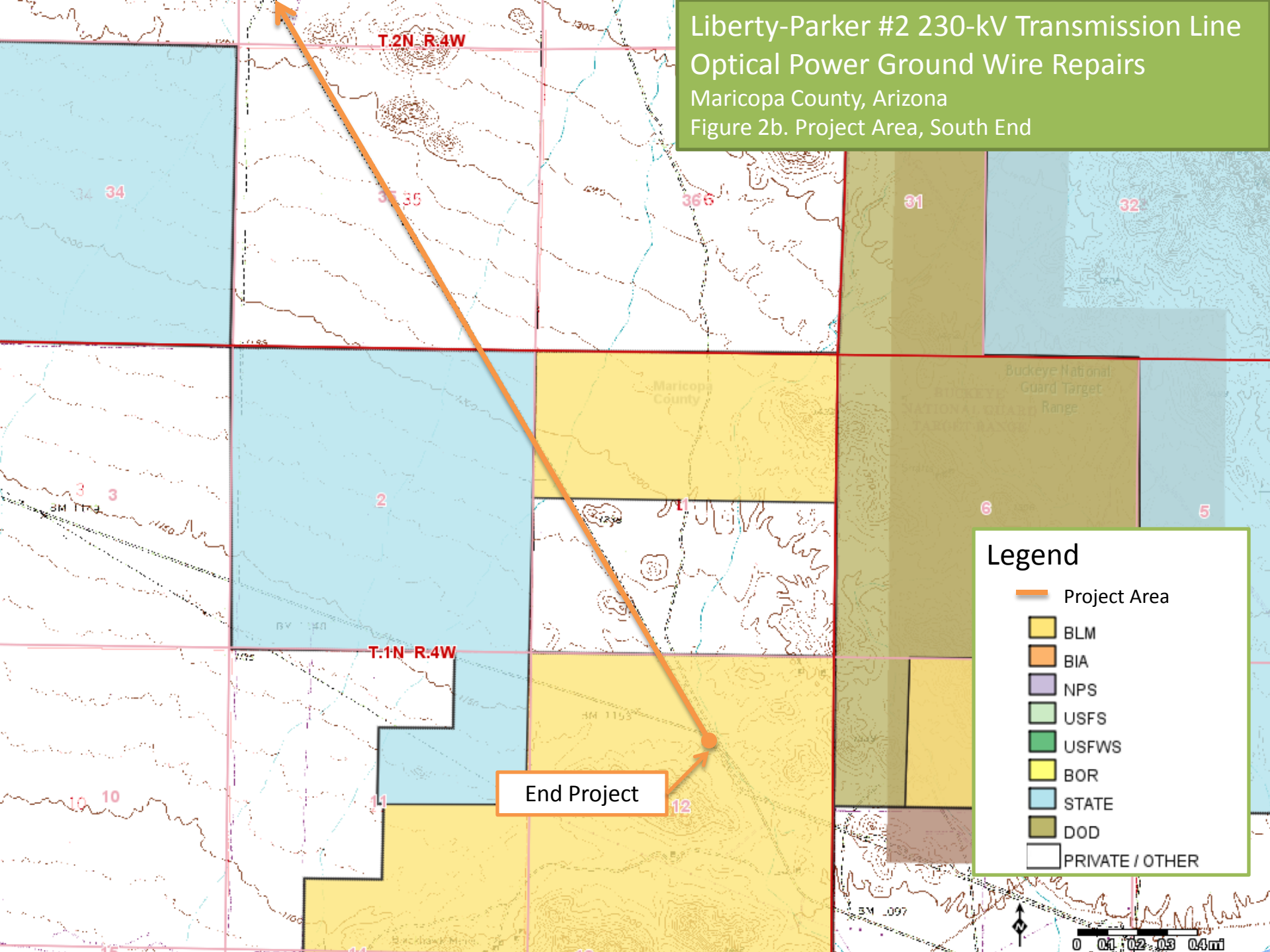
T.2N R.4W
Maricopa
County

Legend

- Project Area
- BLM
- BIA
- NPS
- USFS
- USFWS
- BOR
- STATE
- DOD
- PRIVATE / OTHER



Liberty-Parker #2 230-kV Transmission Line
Optical Power Ground Wire Repairs
Maricopa County, Arizona
Figure 2b. Project Area, South End



T.2N R.4W

34 34

35 35

365

31

32

3 3

2

1

6

5

T.1N R.4W

End Project

12

Legend

- Project Area
- BLM
- BIA
- NPS
- USFS
- USFWS
- BOR
- STATE
- DOD
- PRIVATE / OTHER

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4mi

GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING SONORAN DESERT TORTOISES
ENCOUNTERED ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Revised October 23, 2007

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has developed the following guidelines to reduce potential impacts to desert tortoises, and to promote the continued existence of tortoises throughout the state. These guidelines apply to short-term and/or small-scale projects, depending on the number of affected tortoises and specific type of project.

The Sonoran population of desert tortoises occurs south and east of the Colorado River. Tortoises encountered in the open should be moved out of harm's way to adjacent appropriate habitat. If an occupied burrow is determined to be in jeopardy of destruction, the tortoise should be relocated to the nearest appropriate alternate burrow or other appropriate shelter, as determined by a qualified biologist. Tortoises should be moved less than 48 hours in advance of the habitat disturbance so they do not return to the area in the interim. Tortoises should be moved quickly, kept in an upright position parallel to the ground at all times, and placed in the shade. Separate disposable gloves should be worn for each tortoise handled to avoid potential transfer of disease between tortoises. Tortoises must not be moved if the ambient air temperature exceeds 40° Celsius (105° Fahrenheit) unless an alternate burrow is available or the tortoise is in imminent danger.

A tortoise may be moved up to one-half mile, but no further than necessary from its original location. If a release site, or alternate burrow, is unavailable within this distance, and ambient air temperature exceeds 40° Celsius (105° Fahrenheit), the Department should be contacted to place the tortoise into a Department-regulated desert tortoise adoption program. Tortoises salvaged from projects which result in substantial permanent habitat loss (e.g. housing and highway projects), or those requiring removal during long-term (longer than one week) construction projects, will also be placed in desert tortoise adoption programs. *Managers of projects likely to affect desert tortoises should obtain a scientific collecting permit from the Department to facilitate temporary possession of tortoises.* Likewise, if large numbers of tortoises (>5) are expected to be displaced by a project, the project manager should contact the Department for guidance and/or assistance.

Please keep in mind the following points:

- . These guidelines do not apply to the Mojave population of desert tortoises (north and west of the Colorado River). Mojave desert tortoises are specifically protected under the Endangered Species Act, as administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- . These guidelines are subject to revision at the discretion of the Department. We recommend that the Department be contacted during the planning stages of any project that may affect desert tortoises.
- . Take, possession, or harassment of wild desert tortoises is prohibited by state law. Unless specifically authorized by the Department, or as noted above, project personnel should avoid disturbing any tortoise.