



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: PHX-LOB and LIB-LOB 230-kV double-circuit – replace insulators at Structure No. 28-2 with NCI type polymers

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Phoenix, Maricopa County, AZ

Proposed Action Description:

Western proposes to replace insulators with NCI (Non-Ceramic Insulator) type polymer (made of rubberized material) on the existing 230kV double circuit Phoenix-Lone Butte (PHX-LOB) and Liberty-Lone Butte (LIB-LOB) 230kV transmission line on the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) tribal land in Maricopa County, AZ. The insulators have become damaged/vandalized on the existing line, Structure No. 28-2.

Work will be conducted approximately 70 ft. on either side of target structure within the 100 ft. right-of-way. Ground disturbance will be required on the southeast side of the structure to provide a level work space for equipment. Equipment used on site may consist of rubber tire equipment (e.g. bucket truck with outrigger, pickup truck, tracked dozer, and backhoe). Access to the project area will be via existing service roads.

The insulator replacement will be dependent on outage scheduling (one day outage is required to work on each circuit as the circuits cannot be de-energized at the same time. The anticipated start date for the work is October 2013 and completed no later than May 2014.

Special Condition(s): See Attached Continuation Sheet

Per GRIC Class I Cultural Resources Assessment, all work performed and movement of vehicles and heavy equipment are restricted to existing access roads. No "overland" travel outside the APE (i.e. no u-turns, no short cuts, no using two tracks others have established, etc).

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: *Jim Maricout*

Date Determined: 8.12.13

Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Region
Phoenix-Lone Butte/Liberty-Lone Butte 230-kV Transmission
Line Maintenance, Insulator Replacements at Structure 28-2
Continuation Sheet

Special Conditions

Biological Resources

1. To avoid disturbance to nesting birds, project activities will be scheduled between August 1 and February 15, as feasible. Project activities involving vegetation disturbance or removal taking place between February 16 and July 31 will be subject to pre-construction surveys by a qualified biologist prior to beginning work. Project activities may not disturb an active bird nest. If an active bird nest is located on or adjacent to the project area, the project biologist will designate and flag an appropriate buffer area around the nest where activities will not be permitted. The buffer area will be based on the bird species and nature of project activity.
2. 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, Western Environmental Group (602-605-2640) will be contacted immediately. Desert tortoises may only be handled or moved by personnel as approved by Western Environmental Group, per the AGFD *Guidelines for Handling Desert Tortoises* (2007).
3. Any wildlife injuries or mortalities shall be reported immediately to Western Environmental and the Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality.
4. All earth-moving and hauling equipment shall be washed at the Western storage facility prior to entering the project area on each occasion of entry.

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		

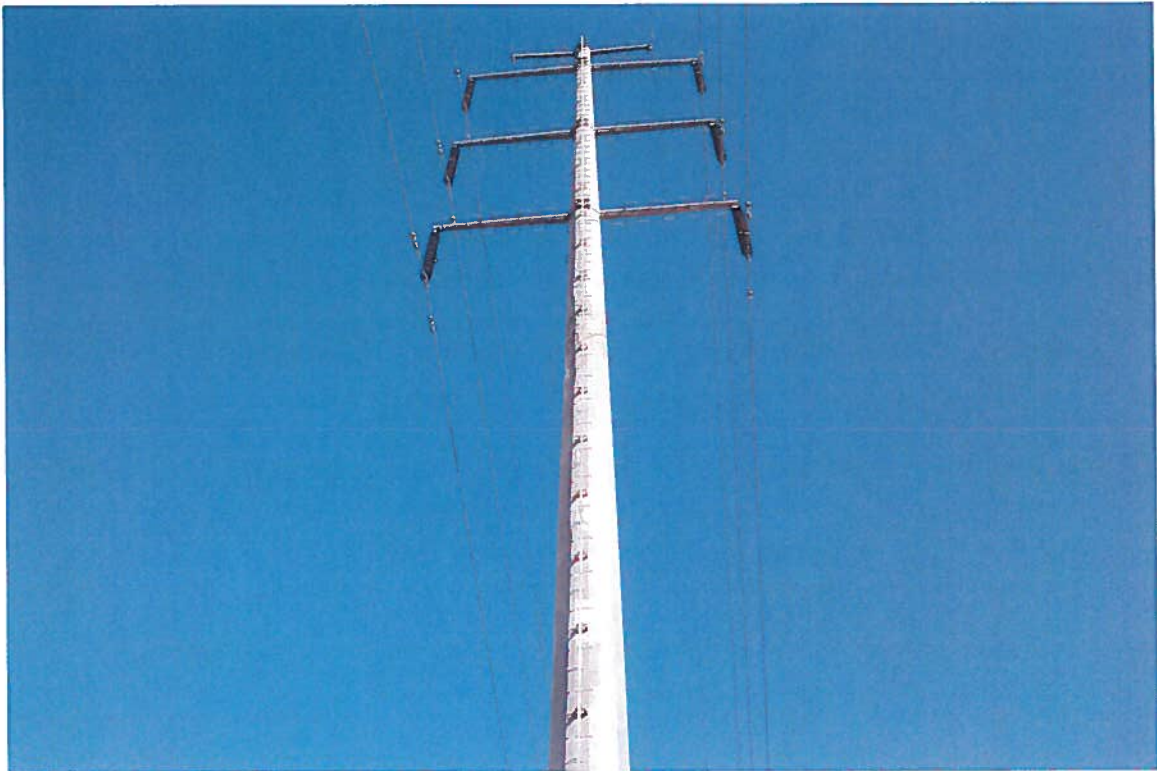
	resources include, but are not limited to:			
(i)	Property (such as sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by a Federal, state, or local government, or property determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of 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		

PHX-LOB and LIB-LOB
Ste. No. 28-2

FACING NORTHEAST



FACING North



(You can see bullet holes on insulators)

PHX-LOB and LIB-LOB
STR. No. 2B-2

Facing Southeast



Facing South



PHX - L0B and LIB - L0B
STR. No. 28-2

Facing NORTHWEST



Facing NORTHEAST

