



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Wood Pole Testing for 20 Transmission Lines in Southern Arizona and Southern California

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration/ Desert Southwest Region

Location(s) (City/County/State): La Paz, Maricopa, Pinal, Pima & Yuma Counties, AZ; Imperial, Riverside & San Bernardino Counties, CA

Proposed Action Description:

Western plans to determine the fiber strength in wood pole structures for 20 transmission lines located in southern Arizona and southern California (see attached list). Western estimates that 360 miles of transmission line will be examined and that 5044 poles will be tested. This work is needed to maintain the reliability and safety of the bulk electric system.

Western's contractor plans use to a Polux pole tester to accomplish the work. Workers attach the device to the base of each pole at ground level or up to six inches above ground level. Excavation is not planned. Workers plan to drive all-terrain vehicles on existing access roads. Overland travel off existing roads is not planned.

Western plans to conduct this maintenance action between 4/21/2014 and 6/30/2014.

See Continuation Sheet

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.1 - Site characterization and environmental monitoring

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: *Ann Maronit*

Date Determined: 4.17.14

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form – Continuation Sheet

Proposed Action Description (continued):

Line Segments to be Tested

Facility Name/ (FID Code)	State	Miles	Beginning structures	Ending structures	Approx Number of Poles
Lone Butte-Sundance (LOB-SUD)	AZ	26	54-3	80-1	208
Coolidge – ED2 #1 (COL-ED2 #1)	AZ	12	0-2	12-1	84
Coolidge – ED2 #2 (COL-ED2 #2)	AZ	12	0-2	12-1	85
Coolidge-Oracle (COL-ORA)	AZ	45	0-1	44-6	596
Oracle- Tucson (COL-TUC)	AZ	13	0-1	12-4	199
Saguaro - Tucson (SGR-TUC)	AZ	35	0-3	35-5	583
Oracle – Saguaro (ORA-SGR)	AZ	19	0-4	18-8	320
ED5-Saguaro N (ED5-SGR N)	AZ	17	30-8	47-8	311
ED5-Saguaro S (ED5-SGR S)	AZ	17	41-6	58-7	311
Blythe-Parker #2 (BLY-PAD #2)	CA	62	0-1	62-3	1042
Wellton Mohawk-Wellton Mohawk Ligurta(WMS-WML)	AZ	0.2	2	3	6
Gila – Wellton Mohawk (GLA-WMS)	AZ	13	0-3	12-8	244
Gila – Knob (GLA-KNB)	CA	20	0-2	20-2	392
Knob-Desalter (KNB-DST)	CA	3	0-1	3-4	24
Laguna Dredge-Laguna Tap (LAD-LAT)	CA	1	0-1	1-12	26
North Gila-Senator Wash (NGA-SEW)	CA	13	4-5E	17-6	208
DomeTap- Wellton Mohawk Ligurta (DME-WML)	AZ	12	0-1	11-8	176
Dome Tap-Gila (DME-GLA)	AZ	7	109-2	116-05	126
Gila – Sonora (GLA-SON)	AZ	18	0-1	18-10	216
Sonora-Wellfield (SON-WLD)	AZ	15	0-1	14-8	198
Total		360			5044

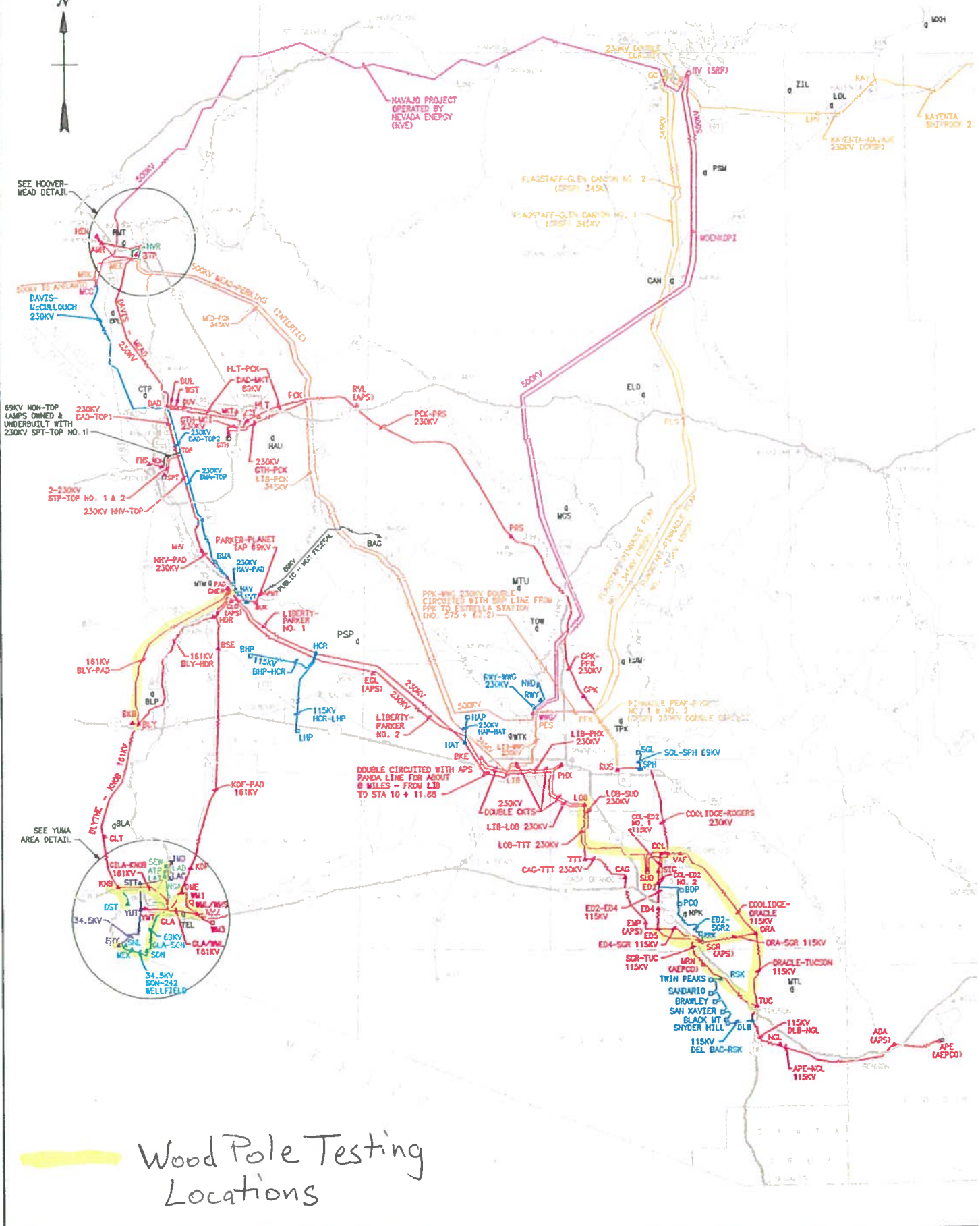
Special Conditions:

- 1) Prior to fieldwork on transmission lines located in California, workers must attend Desert Tortoise (Mojave population) Awareness Training. This training may be presented by Western on-site or workers may provide documentation of where, when and from whom they received such training.
- 2) Western will follow the communication protocol with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Tribe for work on the Gila Knob Transmission Line.
- 3) Western will notify the Colorado River Indian Tribe prior to work on reservation, such as portions of the Blythe Parker No.2 Transmission Line.
- 4) Western will notify the Gila River Indian Community prior to work on the reservation, such as portions of the Lone Butte Sundance Transmission Line.

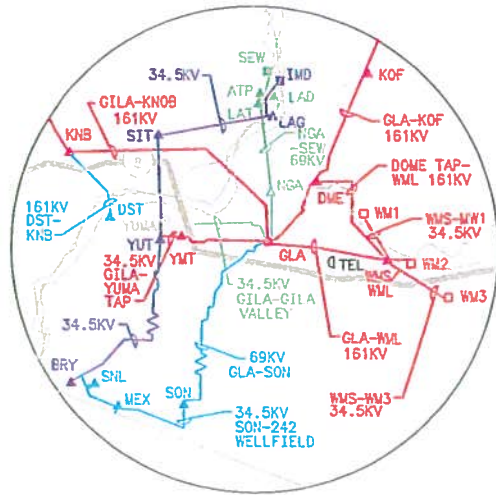
Checklist for Categorical Exclusion Determination, revised Nov. 2011

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 resources include, but are not limited to:	X		
(i) Property (such as sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance	X		

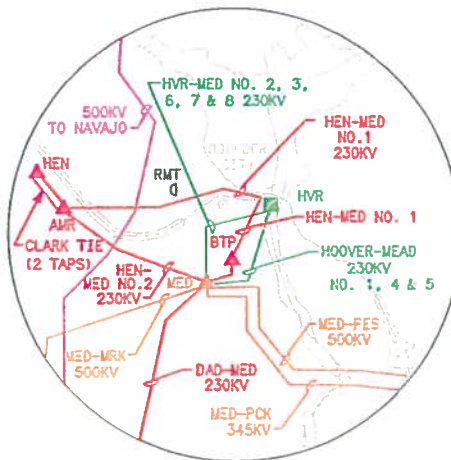
	designated by a Federal, state, or local government, or property determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;			
(ii)	Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat) or Federally- proposed or candidate species or their 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		



Wood Pole Testing Locations



YUMA AREA DETAIL



HOOVER-MEAD DETAIL

FACILITY IDENTIFICATION DESIGNATION

- ADA...ADAMS
- AMR...AMARGOSA
- APC...APACHE
- ATP...ARMY TAP
- BAG...BAGDAD
- BAS...BASIC
- BMA...BLACK MESA
- BLA...BLACK MT
- BLP...BLACK POINT
- BLY...BLYTHE
- BTP...BOULDER CITY TAP
- BRY...BOUNDARY
- BSE...BOUSE
- BHP...BOUSE HILLS PUMP PLANT
- BDP...BRADY TAP PUMP PLANT
- BKB...BUCK BOULEVARD
- BKE...BUCKEYE
- BUK...BUCKSKIN
- BUL...BULLHEAD
- CAN...CAMERON
- CAG...CASA GRANDE
- CTP...CHRISTMAS TREE PASS
- CLO...COLORADO
- COL...COOLIDGE
- DAD...DAVIS
- DLB...DEL BAC
- DST...DESALTER
- DME...DOME
- DUV...DUVAL TAP
- EAS...EASTSIDE
- EGL...EAGLE EYE
- ELD...ELDEN MT
- ED2...ELECTRICAL DISTRICT 2
- ED4...ELECTRICAL DISTRICT 4
- ED5...ELECTRICAL DISTRICT 5
- EMP...EMPIRE
- FHS...FIREHOUSE
- FLG...FLAGSTAFF
- OPK...GAVILAN PEAK
- GNE...GENE
- GLA...GILA
- GC...GLEN CANYON
- GLT...GOLD MINE TAP
- GTH...GRIFFITH
- HCR...HARCUVAR
- HAP...HASSAYAMPA PUMP PLANT
- HAT...HASSAYAMPA TAP
- HAV...HAVASU PUMP PLANT
- HVT...HAVASU TAP
- HYN...HAYDEN
- HDR...HEADGATE ROCK
- HEN...HENDERSON
- HLT...HILLTOP
- HVR...HOOVER
- HMM...HUMBOLT MT
- HUA...MOUNT HUALAPAI
- IMD...IMPERIAL DAM
- KAY...KAYENTA
- KNB...KNOB
- KOF...KOFA
- LAG...LAGUNA
- LAD...LAGUNA DREDGE
- LAT...LAGUNA DREDGE TAP
- LIB...LIBERTY
- LHP...LITTLE HARQUAUALA PUMP PLANT
- LOL...LOLAMAI POINT
- LHV...LONG HOUSE VALLEY TAP
- LOB...LONE BUTTE
- MRN...MARANA
- MRK...MARKETPLACE
- MCC...McCULLOUGH
- MCI...McCONNICO
- MED...MEAD
- MKT...MEC KINGMAN TAP
- MTM...METAL MT
- MXH...MEXICAN HAT
- MEX...MEXICO TAP
- MGS...MINGUS MT
- MTL...MOUNT LEMMON
- MTU...MOUNT UNION
- NV...NAVAJO (SRP)
- NPK...NEWMAN PEAK
- NPT...NEWPORT
- NWD...NEW WADDELL
- NON...NO NAME
- NGL...NOGALES
- NCA...NORTH GILA
- NHV...NORTH HAVASU
- OPF...OPAL MT
- ORA...ORACLE
- PAD...PARKER
- PCK...PEACOCK
- PES...PERKINS
- PSP...PETE SMITH PEAK
- PHX...PHOENIX
- PCO...PICACHO PUMP PLANT
- PKP...PINNACLE PEAK
- PNT...PLANET
- PRS...PRESCOTT
- PSM...PRESTON MESA
- RWY...RACEWAY
- RSK...RATTLESNAKE
- RMT...RED MT
- RRK...RED ROCK PUMP PLANT
- ROS...ROGERS
- RVL...ROUND VALLEY
- SGR...SAGUARO
- SGL...SALT GILA PUMP PLANT
- SNL...SAN LUIS
- SEW...SENATOR WASH
- SHR...SHIPROCK
- SIG...SIGNAL
- SIT...SIPHON DROP IMPERIAL TAP
- SON...SONORA
- SPT...SOUTHPOINT
- SPH...SPOOK HILL
- SUD...SUNDANCE
- TEL...TELEGRAPH PASS
- TTT...TEST TRACK
- TPK...THOMPSON PEAK
- TOP...TOPOCK
- TOW...TOWER MT
- TUC...TUCSON
- VAF...VALLEY FARMS
- WM1...WELLTON MOHAWK PP1
- WM2...WELLTON MOHAWK PP2
- WM3...WELLTON MOHAWK PP3
- WML...WELLTON-MOHAWK-LIGURTA
- WMS...WELLTON-MOHAWK
- WST...WARM SPRINGS TAP
- WTK...WHITE TANK MT
- WWG...WESTWING
- YMT...YUMA MESA TAP
- YUT...YUMA TAP
- ZIL...ZILNER MESA

EXPLANATION

- MULTILANE DIVIDED
- TWO-LANE, PAVED
- TRANSMISSION LINE
- (10)-----INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- (23)-----U S HIGHWAY
- (85)-----STATE HIGHWAY
- HYDRO-GENERATING STATION
- HYDRO-GENERATING/PUMPING PLANT
- PUMPING PLANT
- ▲-----FEDERAL SUBSTATION
- ▲-----NON-FEDERAL SUBSTATION
- MICROWAVE SITE SEPARATE FROM A SUBSTATION
- CITY OR TOWN
- NON-FEDERAL STEAM-GENERATING STATION

LEGEND

- PARKER-DAVIS PROJECT
- CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT
- CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT/NAVAJO PROJECT
- COLORADO RIVER STORAGE PROJECT (SOUTHERN DIVISION-CRSF)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST/SOUTHWEST INTERTIE PROJECT (INTERTIE)
- COLORADO RIVER FRONT WORK AND LEVEE SYSTEM
- GILA PROJECT
- BOULDER CANYON PROJECT
- COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL PROJECT
- PUBLIC - NON FEDERAL

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

MAY BE EXEMPT FROM PUBLIC RELEASE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (5 U.S.C. 522), EXEMPTION NUMBER AND CATEGORY NAME: EXEMPTION 2 - CIRCUMVENTION OF STATUTE

WAPA REVIEW REQUIRED BEFORE PUBLIC RELEASE

NAME/ORG Donald E. Moulton DATE: 6/16/05
G4400

C	1-1-09 G4-RM	ADDED FIREHOUSE AND NO NAME
B	11-7-06 G4-RM	ADDED YUMA MESA TAP
A	4-22-05 G4-RM	ADDED GAVILAN PEAK AND TEST TRACK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
DESERT SOUTHWEST REGION - PHOENIX, ARIZONA

DESERT SOUTHWEST
ARIZONA - CALIFORNIA - NEVADA - NEW MEXICO
CUSTOMER SERVICE REGION
POWER SYSTEM PROJECTS

DESIGNED WAPA ----- APPROVED JAMES H. CHARTERS
TRANSMISSION SYSTEM
PLANNING MANAGER

SEPTEMBER 5, 2003 MAP G 0002