



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Black Mountain Communication Facility Replacement

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Imperial County, California

Proposed Action Description:

Western proposes to rebuild its existing communication facility called Black Mountain located north of Yuma in Imperial County, California. Western and U.S. Border Patrol share a 0.2-acre fenced compound and each has its own building, generator, propane tank and tower. Within the fence, Western plans to erect a temporary shelter, demolish Western's 216-square-foot building, support structures, and 40-foot tower, and construct a new 432-square-foot building, support structures, and 100-foot-tall tower. The work is described in the project specification titled "Replacement of Black Mountain Communication Facilities" (Spec. No. 828), which is summarized on the attached continuation sheet. The existing access road is mostly paved, and road improvements are not planned.

The facility is located southeast of the junction of State Route 78 and County Highway S34 in Imperial County, California. It is situated in a portion of the northwest quarter of Section 12 in Township 13 South, Range 20 East on the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. It occurs on land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Western plans to start this work on or around March 1, 2015 and complete it by October 1, 2015. It is needed to maintain the safety and reliability of the bulk electric system.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.19 - Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

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:

Jon-Maurit

Date Determined:

1-16-15

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form – Continuation Sheet

Black Mountain Rebuild

Project Description (continued):

- 1) Transitional Elements
 - a. Install a prefabricated temporary equipment shelter (8x12 ft) located south of Western's existing building and east of Border Patrol's building.
 - b. Install an underground electrical line (60 ft long) from existing meter to temporary shelter.
 - c. Move communications equipment into and out of the temporary building as needed.
 - d. Move 2 microwave dishes (1, 6ft dia & 1, 8ft dia) on to and off of Border Patrol's tower.
 - e. Remove temporary shelter when the new building is constructed and functional.
 - f. For temporary staging of equipment and material, use existing graveled area (65 by 115 ft) located south of Western's facility and north of the adjacent fenced facility.
- 2) Demolition Elements
 - a. Demolish Western's old concrete masonry building (12x18 ft), propane tank and generator.
 - b. Remove existing building foundation and pads.
 - c. Remove underground electrical line (20 ft long) from the existing meter to the old building.
 - d. Remove waveguide structure and foundations located between tower and old building.
 - e. Remove guyed tower located at northeast corner of Western's old building; remove three guy anchors located outside the fence compound.
 - f. Remove tower (40 ft tall) located on north side of Western building.
 - g. Remove overhead cable (1100 ft long) running between Western's old building and Imperial Irrigation District's building situated outside the fenced compound.
 - h. Re-grade site as needed to control drainage.
- 3) Construction Elements
 - a. Erect new prefabricated building (18x24 ft) in approximately the same location as the old building on new concrete slab foundation with perimeter footers measuring one foot wide and at least five feet deep; Metal anchors will extend at least six feet into solid rock.
 - b. Install new underground electrical line (30 ft long) and meter, and connect to new building.
 - c. Install new generator and pad (2x7 ft) located next to the west side of the new building.
 - d. Install new propane tank and pad (7x9 ft) located north of the new building.
 - e. Install underground propane gas connection (35 ft long) between the tank and the generator.
 - f. Erect new three-legged tower (100 ft tall) located north of the new building. The tower's lightning rod extends 10 feet above the top of the tower; Tower footers measure 3.5 feet in diameter by 20 feet deep.
 - g. Install 4 microwave dishes (1, 4ft dia & 3, 10ft dia) at the 20, 30 and 75 foot levels on the new tower.
 - h. Install underground grounding ring and rods. The ring cable is typically placed 1.5 feet below ground surface and occurs around the perimeter of the building, generator, propane tank, and tower. A grounding rod is placed every 20 feet along ring. Rods are 5/8 inch in diameter and extend 10 feet below ground surface.
 - i. Install new overhead cable on existing structures between new building and Imperial Irrigation District's building.

Special Conditions:

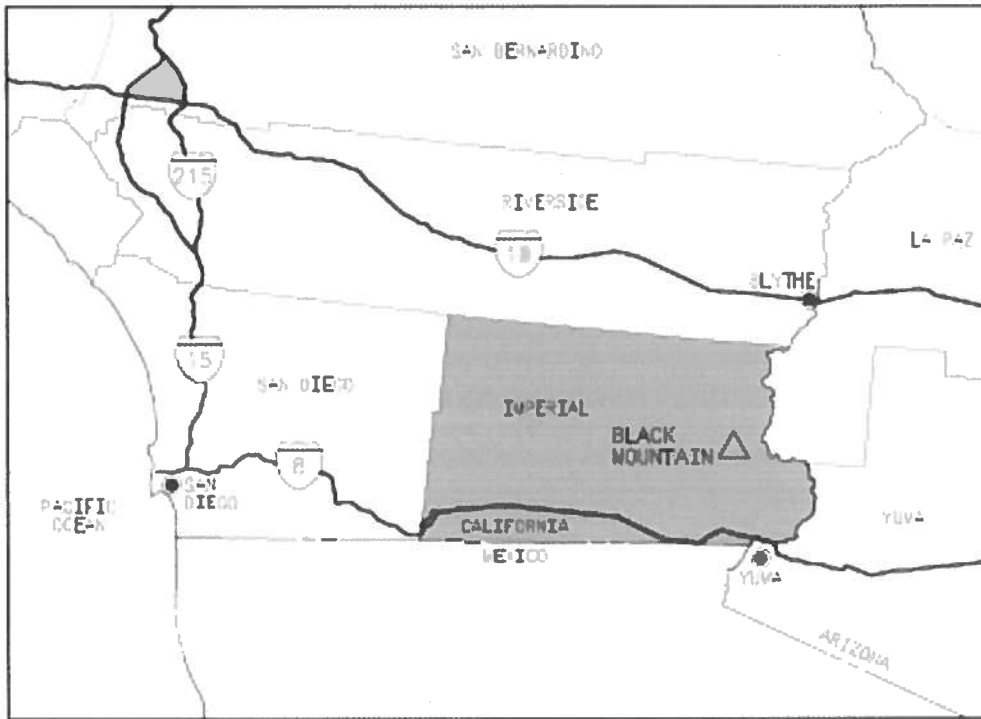
Compliance

- 1) Western's will direct the construction contractor to implement lead-safe practices during demolition, because the paint on Western's existing building is classified as lead-containing.
- 2) Western will provide the construction contractor with a copy of *Asbestos and Lead Survey Report, DOE/Western, Black Mountain Site, Imperial County, California*, prepared by Terracon and dated 12/5/2014.
- 3) Western will direct the construction contractor to set aside all insulated wiring being removed for Western to dispose properly. The construction contractor shall double bag or wrap the removed wiring in 6-mil plastic pre-marked asbestos waste disposal bags. Either the Construction Contractor or Western personnel will deliver the bags to Parker Substation. Western's Environmental staff will test the wiring for asbestos and dispose of it accordingly.
- 4) Western or the construction contractor shall notify the California Air Resources Board and US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, 10 days prior to building demolition per National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP)

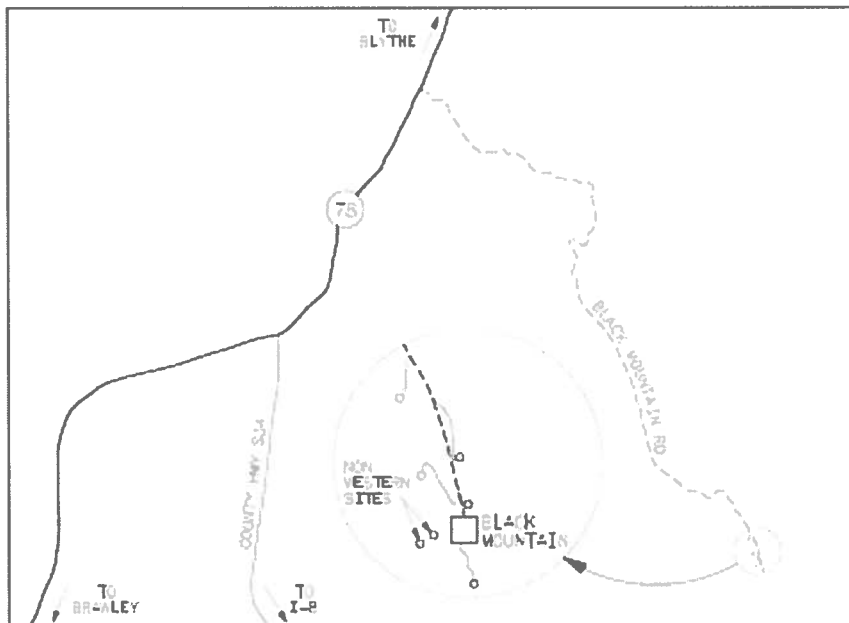
Cultural Resources

- 5) Western is in the process of consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and will work with consulting parties throughout project development.
- 6) Western's Contracting Officer Representative will include the Environmental manager in the kick off/ safety meeting with the construction contractor to review environmental issues prior to fieldwork.
- 7) Western will develop and implement a plan for discovery should project activities encounter a previously unknown historic property. All work that might affect the property shall cease until Western, in consultation with all appropriate parties (including the SHPO, Western's HPO, Tribes, private landowners, and state, local, and land management agencies), can evaluate the property's eligibility and project probable effects. Western shall consult with the SHPO and the land management agencies or individuals to determine what measures can be taken to mitigate the effects or avoid the property. The consultation shall also determine when work at the location of the discovery may resume.

Project Location Map:



COUNTY MAP



VICINITY MAP

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 designated by a Federal, state, or local government, or	X		

	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		