



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Gila-Gila Valley Lateral Transmission Line Rebuild, Upgrade, and Extension

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Yuma, Yuma County, AZ

Proposed Action Description:

Western plans to rebuild, upgrade, and extend 34.5 kV lateral lines that connect the Gila to Gila Valley Main Transmission Line to 16 groundwater pumps operated by the US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Yuma Irrigation District (YID) located in Yuma, Yuma County, Arizona. The total length of the 6 laterals lines is 4 miles, and the right-of-way width is 40 feet. Lateral Lines D, E, F, G, and H are BOR managed, and Line C is YID managed. Existing wood poles will be replaced with steel monopoles. Pole-mounted transformers will be replaced and additional ones installed so that each pump has its own transformer. Portions of the lines that are currently operated at 480V will be upgraded to 34.5-kV. The overhead 34.5-kV lines will be extended within existing rights-of-way to reach each pump. No work is planned on existing underground lines. Gila Substation will be used as a staging area if needed. Western plans to conduct this work in Summer 2015, and it is expect to take two months complete. Workers plan to use backhoes, bucket trucks, line trucks and crew trucks to accomplish the action.

BOR and YID plan to connect the new transformers installed by Western to the pumps that they manage by stringing overhead 480V lines or connecting to existing underground lines. The pumps range in size from 25 to 125 horsepower.

The purpose of the work is to ensure the safety and reliability of the bulk electric system. The groundwater pumps served by this line by protect irrigated agricultural fields from crop loss due to saturation. The lateral lines are the only source of power to these pumps.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.6 - Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

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:

John Marante

Date Determined:

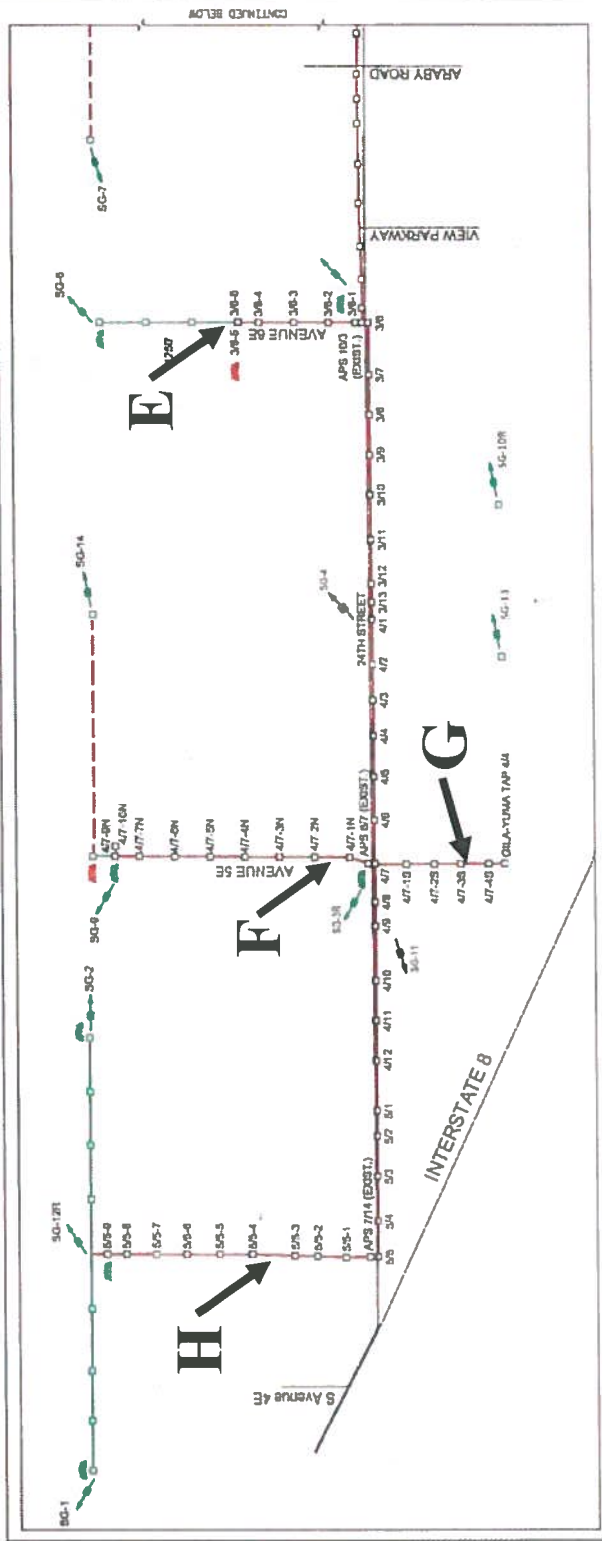
1-13-15

Special Conditions:

- 1) Western and the construction contractor shall use existing access roads to reach the project area.
- 2) Western will have a qualified biologist conduct pre-construction survey for breeding birds and burrowing owls no more than 7 days in advance of construction.
- 3) Western's qualified biologist will flag an avoidance area with an appropriate buffer around an active bird nest located in the work area.
- 4) Western's qualified biologist will inspect and monitor avoidance areas, as needed.
- 5) Western's inspector will coordinate with Western's on-site biologist to avoid disturbing active bird nests.
- 6) Western and the construction contractor shall avoid ground-disturbing impacts to the in-use South Gila Valley Main Canal; the rebuilt transmission line will span this historic-period structure.

Project Location Maps:

Gila Valley Lateral Re-build Study



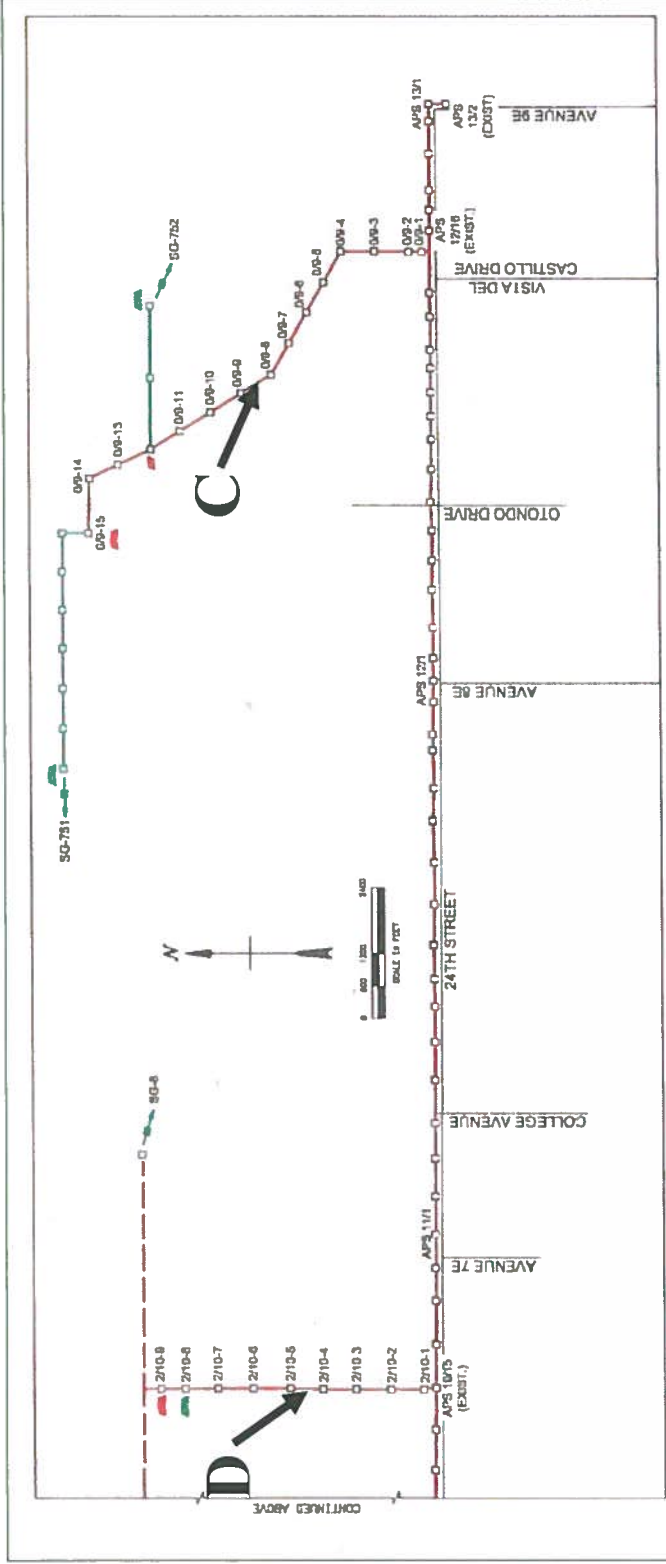
NOTES

1. ALL POLES AND WIRE ON LATERALS WILL BE REPLACED.
2. ALL TRANSFORMER BANKS SIZED FOR 100 HORSEPOWER MOTORS.
3. ALL EXISTING AND NEW OVERHEAD LINES WILL BE IN 40' WIDE EASEMENT.

EXPLANATION

- NEW POLE
- EXISTING POLE
- Existing Underground
- NEW 34.5KV
- EXISTING 34.5KV
- NEW 34.5/480V 1120VA TRANSFORMER BANK
- EXISTING 34.5/480V TRANSFORMER BANK TO BE REMOVED
- 480 VOLT 4 WIRE SERVICE DROP
- Existing Service Drop

Proposed Action (1 of 2). Existing lateral lines will be rebuilt and extended.



** SG-13 and SG-10R are located off of the GLA 'YUT' Line **

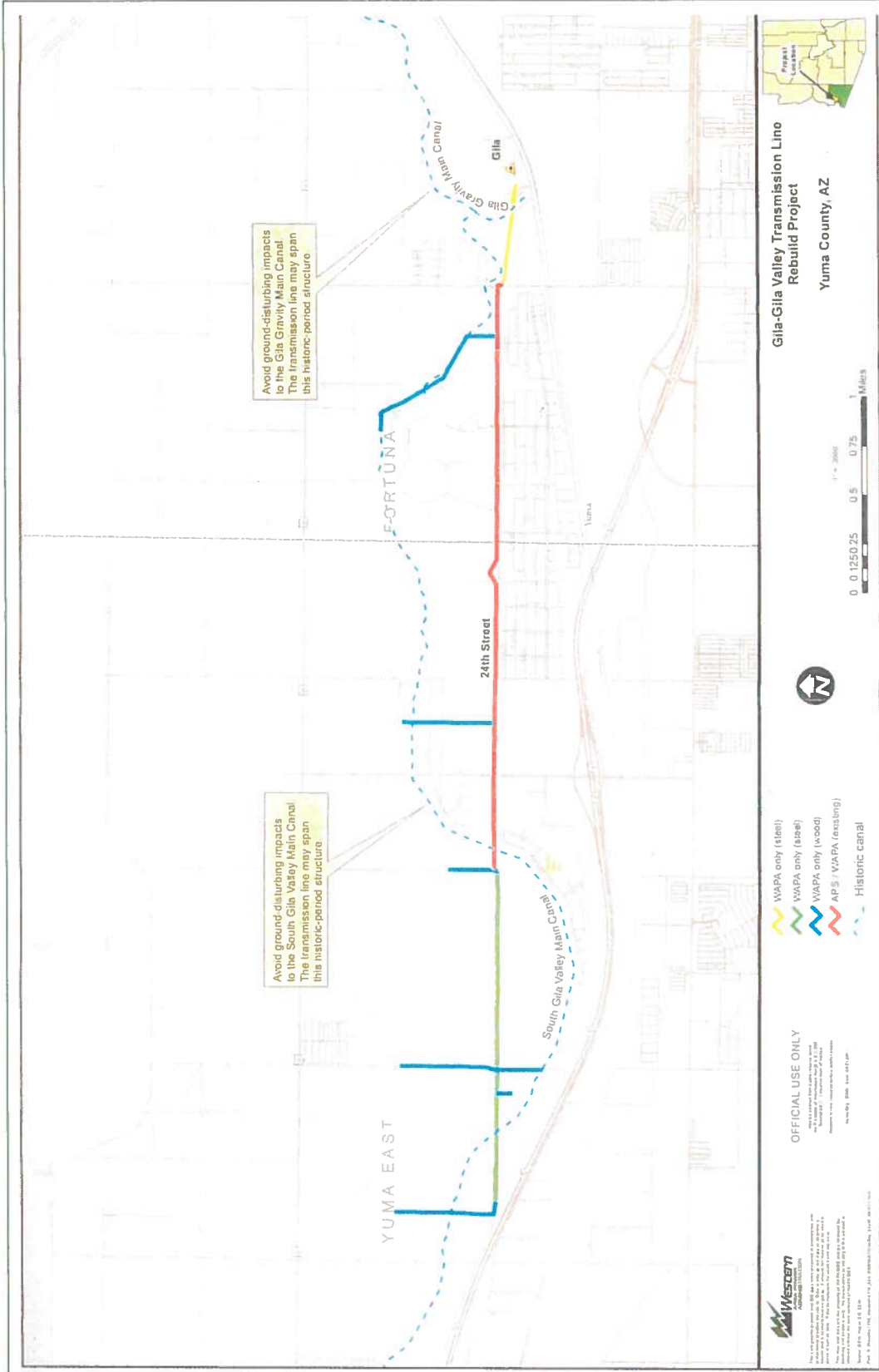
NOTES

1. ALL POLES AND WIRE ON LATERALS WILL BE REPLACED.
2. ALL TRANSFORMER BANKS SIZED FOR 100 HORSEPOWER MOTORS.
3. ALL EXISTING AND NEW OVERHEAD LINES WILL BE IN 40' WIDE EASEMENT.

EXPLANATION

- NEW POLE
- EXISTING POLE
- Existing Underground
- NEW 34.5KV
- EXISTING 34.5KV
- NEW 34.5/480V 112KVA TRANSFORMER BANK
- EXISTING 34.5/480V TRANSFORMER BANK TO BE REMOVED
- 400 VOLT 4 WIRE SERVICE DROP
- Existing Service Drop

Proposed Action (2 of 2). Existing lateral lines will be rebuilt and extended.



Proposed Action showing known avoidance 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 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		

bcc.

Mr. Lois Lopez BOR Yuma (lelopez@usbr.gov)

G0400 (Marianito)
G0420 (Bilsbarrow)

G5637 (Kelly)
G5638 (Love)

CX file
DSW external website

FILE: 5440.04 GLA GIV TL

