



# U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Protection and Communication Facilities Maintenance and Minor Additions or Modifications to Existing Infrastructure  
2016-2017

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Arizona, Southern Nevada, Southeastern California, Southern Utah

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (Western), Desert Southwest Region (DSW), plans to conduct routine and repetitive operations and maintenance actions as well as occasional minor equipment, structure and building additions or modifications at existing communications facilities located in Arizona, southeastern California, southern Nevada, and southern Utah. These facilities may be stand alone communication sites or part of electrical substations, office complexes or customer facilities. Western plans to use existing access roads to reach these facilities. This work is needed to maintain the reliability and safety of the bulk electrical system.

Maintenance actions at Parker Davis Power System communications sites was analyzed in an environmental assessment (DOE/EA-1982) and not repeated here.

See Attached Continuation Sheet

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3 - Routine maintenance

B1.7 - Electronic equipment

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:

*Lord Marantz*

Date Determined: 3.25.16

# Protection and Communication Facilities Maintenance and Minor Additions or Modifications to Existing Infrastructure Continuation Sheet

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## **Project Description (continued)**

Western includes in this determination maintenance, replacement, removal and/or repair and minor additions or modifications to communication equipment at existing facilities that may include but not be limited to:

1. Maintenance and inspection of microwave towers, dishes, parabolic dishes, and pertinent equipment;
2. Maintenance and inspection of communication towers, antennae, and pertinent equipment;
3. Installation, adjustment or replacement of antennae or dishes on an existing structure;
4. Maintenance and inspection of light beacons in-kind;
5. Adding, modifying, replacing, or removing, radio equipment, panels, wiring, or controls;
6. Maintenance of foundations or footings;
7. Maintenance and inspection of metering, fiber optics, and relaying equipment;
8. Maintenance and inspection of generators, batteries, gauges and propane tanks, including refilling propane tanks;
9. Replacement, recycling and disposal of batteries;
10. Replacement of propane tanks if existing concrete pad is reused;
11. Maintenance and inspection of security equipment;
12. Installation of security equipment on existing buildings or structures;
13. Maintenance, repair or replacement of air-conditioning units provided the Freon is recycled;
14. Maintenance of buildings including interior and exterior painting;
15. Surveys of building and equipment to identify asbestos and lead-based paint.

Minor additions are generally those that do not entail constructing or expanding concrete footers, pads, or foundations.

## **Special Conditions:**

Managers implementing actions under this Categorical Exclusion (CX) will contact DSW's Environmental Manager per the attached communication plan. If an action's scope is not listed or dissimilar to ones listed above, or if conditions that are integral elements (see checklist) are not met, then an action-specific NEPA document is needed.

1. This Categorical Exclusion is valid for one year after the signature date or until an updated version is executed, whichever comes first.
2. Ground-disturbing activities are not covered by this Categorical Exclusion and Western's DSW Environmental Manager must be contacted to review the proposed action prior to work.

3. Requirements for lead-based paint, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), asbestos, batteries, and other environmentally regulated materials requirements will be met. DSW's Environmental Manager shall be contacted.
  - a. If insulated wires will be pulled, scraped, or removed, DSW's Environmental Manager will be contacted to determine if asbestos testing is needed. If the insulation contains asbestos, DSW's Environmental Manager will be contact to dispose of it properly.
  - b. If equipment with components containing PCBs or mercury will be removed, DSW's Environmental Manager will be contacted to arrange for disposal.
4. If evidence of a nesting bird is discovered in the work area, work shall cease and DSW's Environmental Manager will be contacted with the location and nature of the findings.
5. If any cultural materials are discovered, work in the area shall halt immediately, DSW Regional Preservation Officer shall be contacted, and the material be evaluated by an archaeologist or historian meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (48 FR 22716, Sept. 1983).

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>B. Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B. :</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 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		