



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Pinnacle Peak-Rogers 230-kV Transmission Line, Inset Structure 5/1A

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (Western) proposes to correct design discrepancies on the existing Pinnacle Peak to Rogers (PPK-RGS) 230-kV transmission line in Maricopa County, Arizona. The project area is located along the existing right-of-way (ROW) between approximately North Hayden Road and North Thompson Peak Parkway in Scottsdale, Arizona. The project is on Arizona State Trust and private lands, and lands administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, in Township 3 North, Range 5 East, Sections 5, 6, and 8; and Township 4 North, Range 4 East, Sections 25, 31, and 36 (Gila & Salt River Baseline and Meridian). Western has identified design discrepancies in this location, causing encroachment on the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) minimum electrical clearance of 21 feet. Specifically, the transmission line is not constructed on centerline within the existing ROW between structures 5/1 and 5/2. In addition, an office building has been constructed at the edge of the ROW in this span. Each of these contributes to the encroachment on the transmission line. The purpose of the proposed project is to address these design discrepancies and encroachments on the existing transmission line, thereby providing safe and reliable operation of the bulk transmission system.

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: *Linda Martin*

Date Determined: 3.23.16

**Pinnacle Peak-Rogers 230-kV Transmission Line
Inset Structure 5/1A
Continuation Sheet**

Proposed Action Description (continued):

The scope of work includes the following:

- Install one direct-embedded, double-circuit steel pole structure between 5/1 and 5/2. Structure installation will involve excavating an approximately 30-foot diameter hole, placing the structure, and backfilling the excavation with concrete.
- Remove Stockbridge-type conductor vibration dampers, Stockbridge-type overhead groundwire vibration dampers, six conductor armor rods, and two overhead groundwire armor rods at each of fifteen structures: 3/3, 3/4, 4/1, 4/2, 4/3, 4/4, 5/1, 5/2, 5/3, 5/4, 6/1, 6/2, 6/3, 6/4, and 6/4A.
- Cut all six conductors, removing 12 linear feet from each conductor, and splicing the conductors back together, between structures 3/3 and 6/4A.
- Install 3.25 miles of conductor and overhead groundwire for 230-kV double-circuit transmission line.
- Ground metal gates or other items within the project area which may present an electrocution hazard.

All structures will be accessed via existing public or utility roads. Blading, clearing, and grubbing may occur within the project area to allow for safe access by crews and equipment to the transmission structures and appurtenant equipment. Equipment used on site may include bucket trucks, line trucks, crew trucks (F-550s or similar), pulling and tensioning vehicles, bulldozers, and augers.

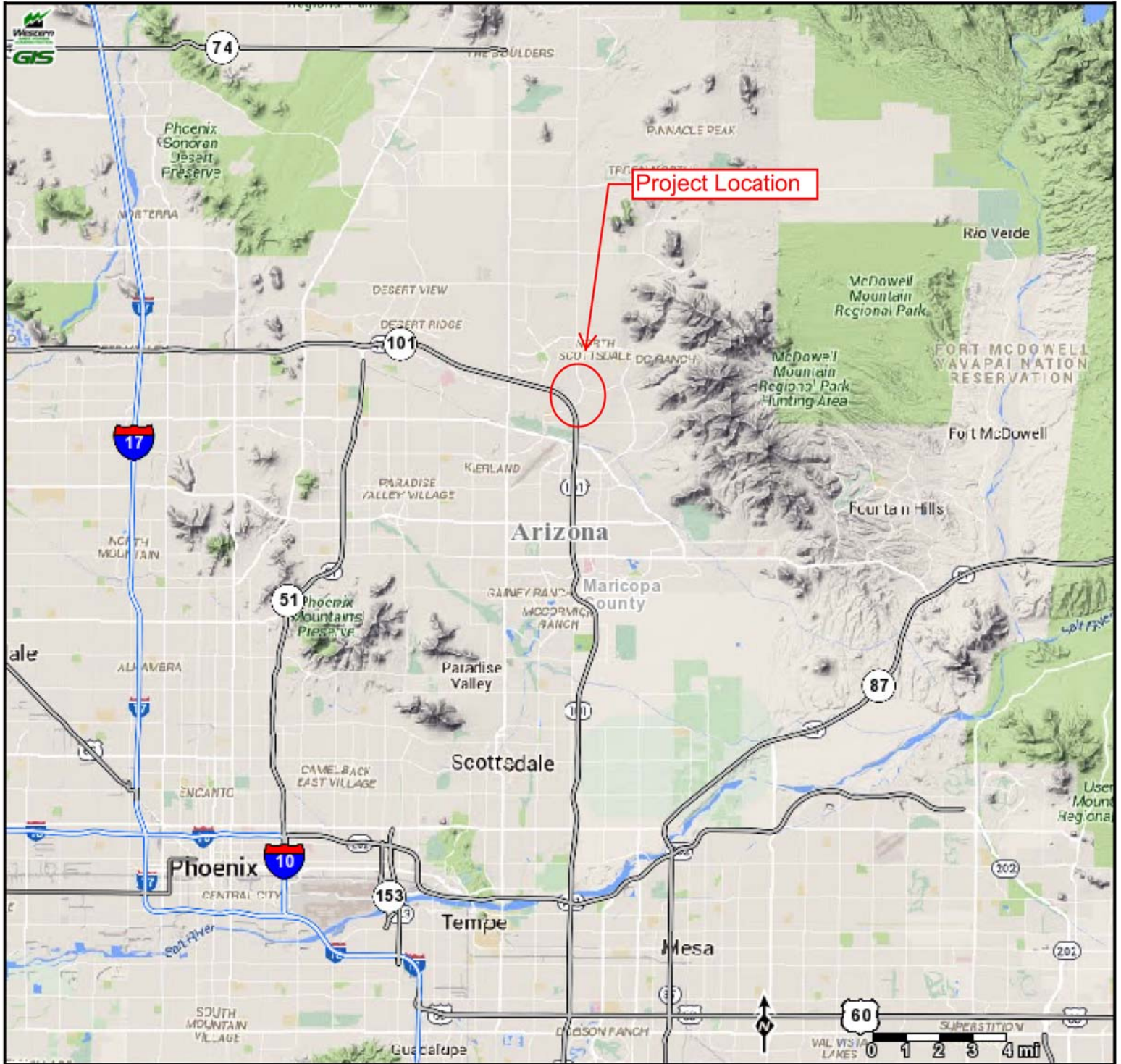
Project construction will begin no sooner than October 1, 2016, and will be completed by November 30, 2016.

Special Conditions:

1. If construction soil disturbance totals one acre or more, the Contractor shall obtain a Storm Water Construction general permit and be responsible for preparation and implementation of the associated Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The Contractor shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) and appropriate fees to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The Contractor shall provide copies of the SWPPP, NOI, and Notice of Termination to the COR.
 - a. The Contractor shall submit the SWPPP to the COR for review at least 15 days prior to the start of on-site activities.
 - b. The Contractor shall post the SWPPP on-site during construction activities per ADEQ requirements.

2. Project activities shall be scheduled outside the breeding bird season (generally February 15 to August 31), as feasible. Alternatively, if blading, clearing, grubbing, or other ground-disturbing activities will occur during the breeding bird season, a qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting birds. The Contractor shall provide notice to the COR at least 15 days in advance of ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities within the ROW.
3. The Contractor shall provide 75 days' notice in advance of any staging, blading, clearing, and grubbing activities proposed outside of the existing ROW in order to provide adequate time for additional environmental review.

Desert Southwest Region



Legend

- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- MAJOR HIGHWAY (US/STATE)
- States
- Counties
- Google Terrain

Scale 1:283,429
3/23/2016 12:54 P.M.

Western Area Power Administration

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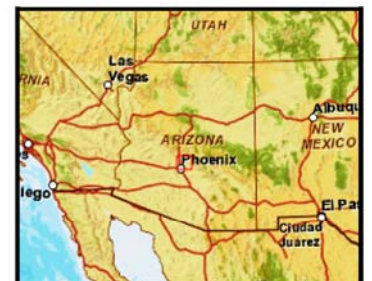
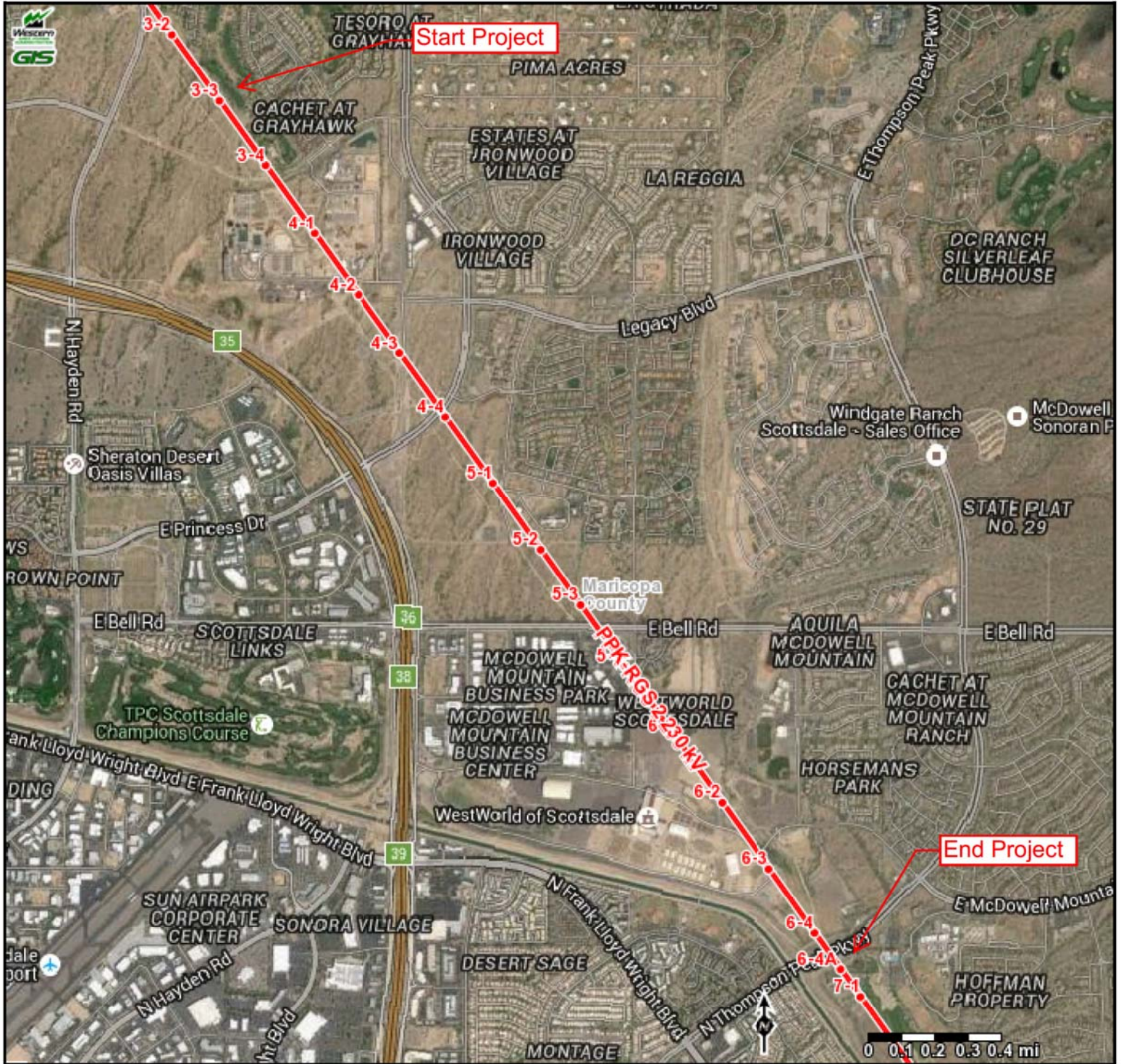


Figure 1. Project Location Map

Desert Southwest Region



Legend

- Proposed and Re-route Structure
- Complete Structure
- Incomplete Structure
- Distribution Structure
- ↗ Proposed or Re-route T-Line
- ↗ Complete T-Line
- ↗ Incomplete T-Line
- ↗ Distribution Line
- ↗ Underground T-Line
- ⬆ Proposed Facilities
- ⬆ Facility / Substation / Switchyard
- ⬆ States
- ⬆ Counties
- ⬆ Google Aerials and Labels

Scale 1:29,018
3/10/2016 3:14 P.M.

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Figure 2. Project Area Map

