



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Hassayampa Tap Replacement and Sun Valley Interconnection

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration - Desert Southwest Region - Phoenix, AZ

Location(s) (City/County/State): Buckeye, Maricopa County, AZ

Proposed Action Description:

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is proposing to replace the existing Hassayampa Tap (HAT) with the new Hassayampa Switching Station (HSS), to be situated immediately adjacent to the HAT. The existing HAT will be demolished. Additional work includes replacing the existing single-circuit conductor between the HAT and the Hassayampa Pumping Plant (HAP) with new conductor between the proposed HSS and the HAP. Also, a new 0.75 mile 230 kV double-circuit line will be installed from the HAP to Arizona Public Service's (APS) newly built Sun Valley Substation. The proposed work is estimated to begin April 17, 2017 and end March 15, 2019.

In 2014, the WAPA completed a study (in coordination with the Central Arizona Water Conservation District) to investigate potential improvements to facilities that feed the HAP. The results of the study determined a need for facility upgrades, and by this proposal, WAPA will meet the needs identified in the study.

Special Condition:

Work will not commence until WAPA receives the necessary Section 404 (Clean Water Act) permit, verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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:

Date Determined:

12-8-16