



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Mead - Tower Installation for Fall Protection Training

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Boulder City, Clark County, Nevada

Proposed Action Description:

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is proposing to install a 70-ft tall tower at Mead (MED) substation to facilitate safety training as part of WAPA's Fall Protection program. The new tower would be used to train personnel on safety equipment and safe climbing techniques; staff would also participate in mock fall rescues and how to respond in emergency situations.

All work would occur within the MED substation boundary. The tower base would be graded and leveled (approximately 13-ft by 13-ft). There would be four tower footings; each would be augered to a depth of 12-ft (no more than 3-ft diameter, each), sonotubes (concrete forms) would be placed in each footing, and poured with concrete. Tower installation would begin March 20, 2017, and would take approximately two weeks to complete.

Special Conditions:

- 1) WAPA staff completing the installation work shall be mindful and implement their biological awareness training (Mohave desert tortoise);
- 2) Excavations greater than 1-ft in depth will be fenced, covered or filled at the end of each day.
- 3) Vehicle speeds will not exceed 25 miles per hour (MPH) on access and maintenance roads, and 20 MPH on unimproved access routes.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.19 - Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

B1.2 - Training exercises and simulations

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:

3-17-17