



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Pinnacle Peak Substation - Erosion Control

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

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

Proposed Action Description:

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is proposing to perform erosion control maintenance on the existing access roads and upland drainage areas surrounding the Pinnacle Peak Substation (PPK). The existing access roads and drainage areas have experienced severe erosion from rain/wind events and need to be repaired so WAPA staff can continue to safely operate and maintain the PPK substation.

Proposed work includes using a dozer to grade the existing access roads situated immediately west, north and east of the substation and returning the area to its former condition. There would be no expansion of existing access, only the existing access road footprint would be maintained. Additionally, the existing upland drainages would be re-shaped and contoured back to its original condition.

Work is anticipated to begin in October 2017 and should take approximately 4-6 weeks to complete.

See Continuation Sheet..

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3 - Routine maintenance

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:

7-26-17

Continuation Sheet - PPK Erosion Control

*****Special Conditions*****

- 1) Within one (1) week before the project commences, WAPA's Biologist will perform a pre-construction biological survey and flag any avoidance areas. The construction contractor shall avoid all flagged areas.
- 2) Sonoran desert tortoises are unlikely to be present in the project area; however, if a tortoise is found in the project area, project activities shall cease and WAPA's Environmental Department (602-605-2599) shall be contacted immediately. If the tortoise does not leave the project area on its own, WAPA's Biologist or qualified environmental staff member will move the tortoise to another location.
- 3) If evidence of a cultural or paleontological site is discovered, cease work in the area and immediately notify WAPA/DSW's Environmental Department at 602-605-2842. Stop all activities within a 50-ft radius of the discovery and do not proceed with work within that radius until directed to do so by WAPA/DSW's Environmental Department.