



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Gila-Gila Valley Lateral Transmission Line Rebuild, Upgrade, and Extension

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Yuma, Yuma County, AZ

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) plans to rebuild, upgrade, and extend 34.5 kV lateral lines that connect the Gila to Gila Valley Main Transmission Line to 16 groundwater pumps operated by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Yuma Irrigation District (YID) located in Yuma, Yuma County, Arizona. The total length of the 6 laterals lines is 4 miles. Lateral Lines D, E, F, G, and H are BOR managed, and Line C is YID managed. The existing right-of-way ranges in width from 10 to 40 feet, and in the 10-foot-wide sections, WAPA will acquire additional 10 feet on either side to protect the conductors from encroachment. Existing wood poles will be removed, and new wood poles ranging from 50 to 85 feet tall will be installed. Existing conductors will be reinstalled on the new poles. Pole-mounted transformers will be replaced and additional ones installed so that each pump has its own transformer. Portions of the lines that are currently operated at 480V will be upgraded to 34.5-kV. The overhead 34.5-kV lines will be extended within existing rights-of-way to reach each pump. No work is planned on existing underground lines. WAPA plans to complete this work by 6/30/2018.

During construction, workers plan to use backhoes, bulldozers bucket trucks, line trucks and crew trucks to accomplish the action. Workers will erect temporary wood pole guard structures in the right-of-way to protect the conducted from inadvertently falling onto roads or other utilities. Workers will store and stage materials at a laydown yard located on BOR land at the southeast corner of 24th Street and Araby Road in Yuma. WAPA will add gravel and erect temporary fencing around a 500 foot by 500 foot area.

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:

Date Determined:

3.2.18

Gila-Gila Valley Lateral Transmission Line Rebuild, Upgrade, and Extension Project Categorical Exclusion Continuation Sheet

Project Description (continued)

BOR and YID plan to connect the new transformers installed by WAPA to the pumps that they manage by stringing overhead 480V lines or connecting to existing underground lines. The pumps range in size from 25 to 125 horsepower.

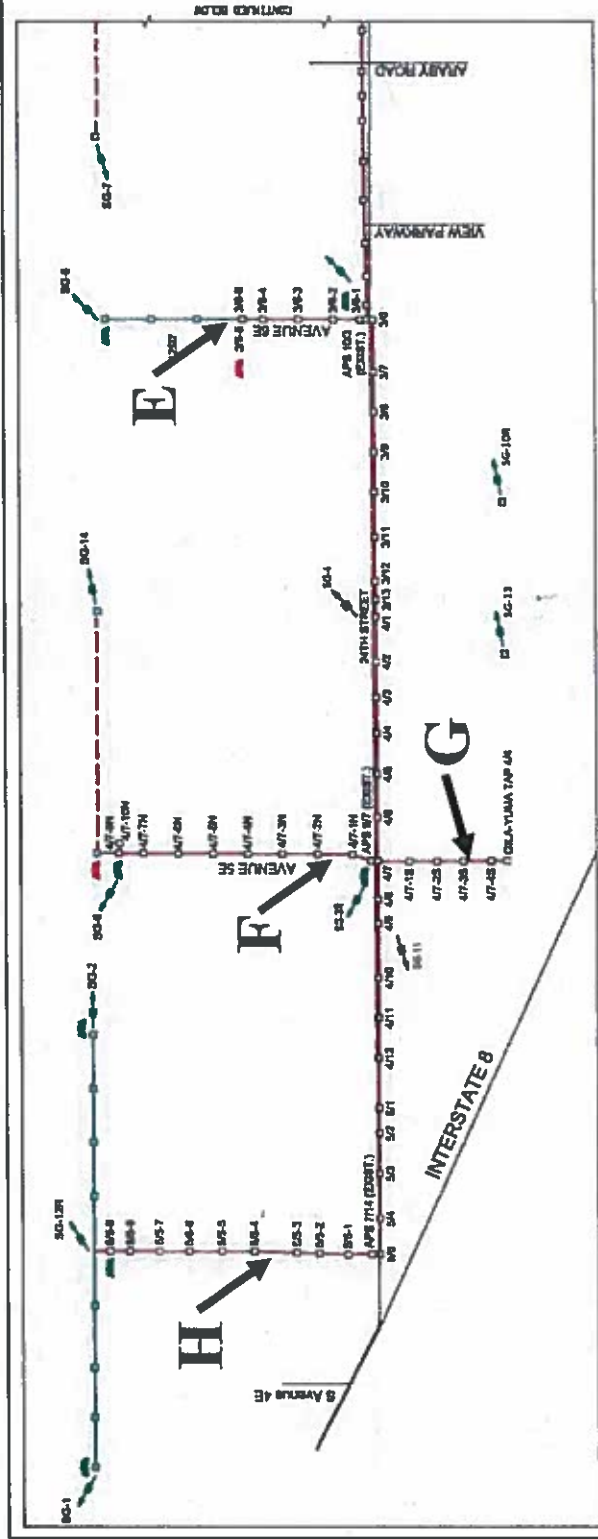
The purpose of the work is to ensure the safety and reliability of the bulk electric system. The groundwater pumps served by this line by protect irrigated agricultural fields from crop loss due to saturation. The lateral lines are the only source of power to these pumps.

Special Conditions:

- 1) WAPA and the construction contractor shall use existing access roads to reach the project area.
- 2) WAPA will have a qualified biologist conduct a pre-construction survey for breeding birds and burrowing owls no more than 7 days in advance of construction for each of the six (6) work phases.
- 3) WAPA's qualified biologist will flag an avoidance area with an appropriate buffer around an active bird nest located in the work area.
- 4) WAPA's qualified biologist will inspect and monitor avoidance areas, as needed.
- 5) If work must occur within a flagged avoidance area around an active nest of a species protected pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, WAPA's Environmental Manager will be contacted to make arrangements to move the active nest prior to any work in the area, pursuant to the Desert Southwest Region's Special Purpose Utility permit.
- 6) WAPA and the construction contractor shall avoid ground-disturbing impacts to the in-use South Gila Valley Main Canal; the rebuilt transmission line will span this historic-period structure.

Project Location Maps:

Gila Valley Lateral Re-build Study

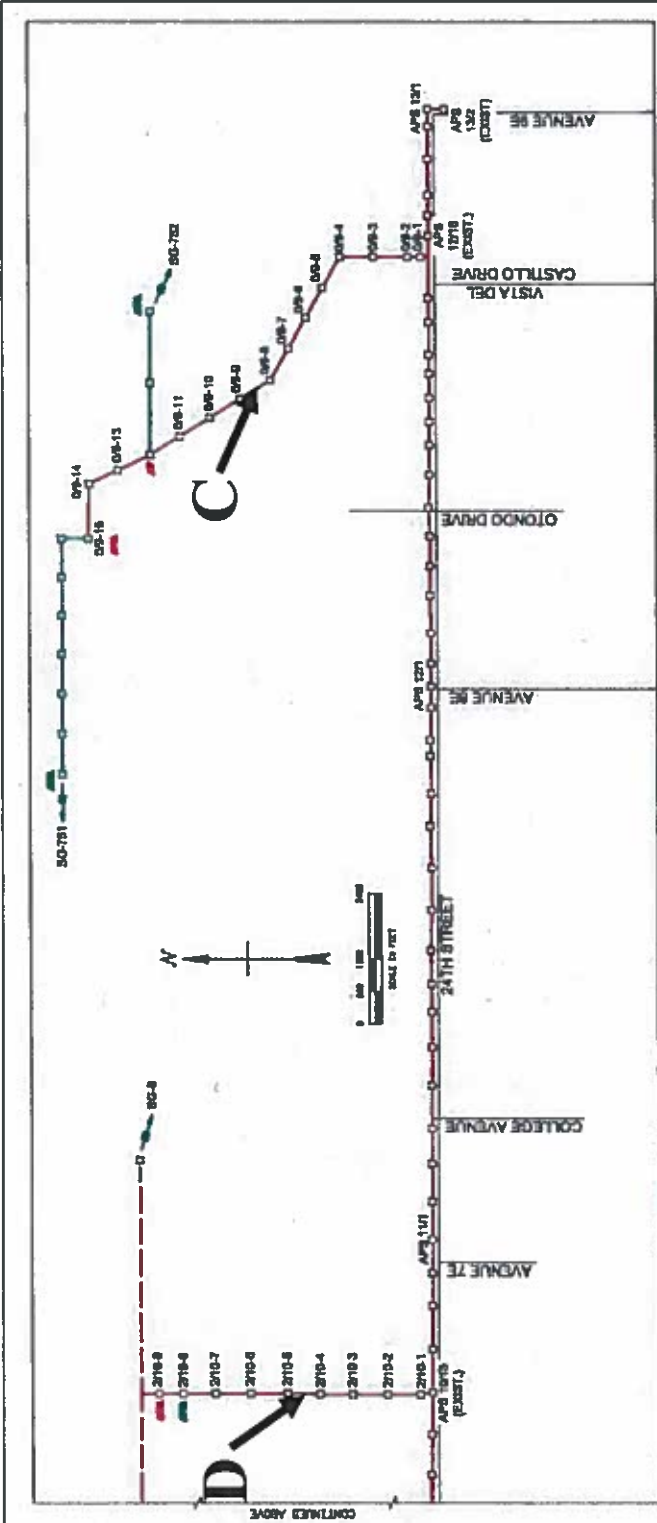


1. ALL POLES AND WIRE ON LATERALS WILL BE REPLACED.
2. ALL TRANSFORMER BANKS SIZED FOR 100 HORSEPOWER MOTORS.
3. ALL EXISTING AND NEW OVERHEAD LINES WILL BE IN 40' WIDE EASEMENT.

EXPLANATION

- NEW POLE
- EXISTING POLE
- - - Existing Underground
- - - NEW 34.5KV
- - - EXISTING 34.5KV
- - - NEW 34.5/40KV
- - - EXISTING 34.5/40KV
- ⊠ 112KVA TRANSFORMER BANK
- ⊠ 112KVA TRANSFORMER BANK TO BE REMOVED
- ⊠ 400 VOLT 4 WIRE SERVICE DROP
- ⊠ Existing Service Drop

Proposed Action (1 of 2). Existing lateral lines will be rebuilt and extended.



** SC-13 and SC-106 are located off of the G.L.A. 7107 Line **

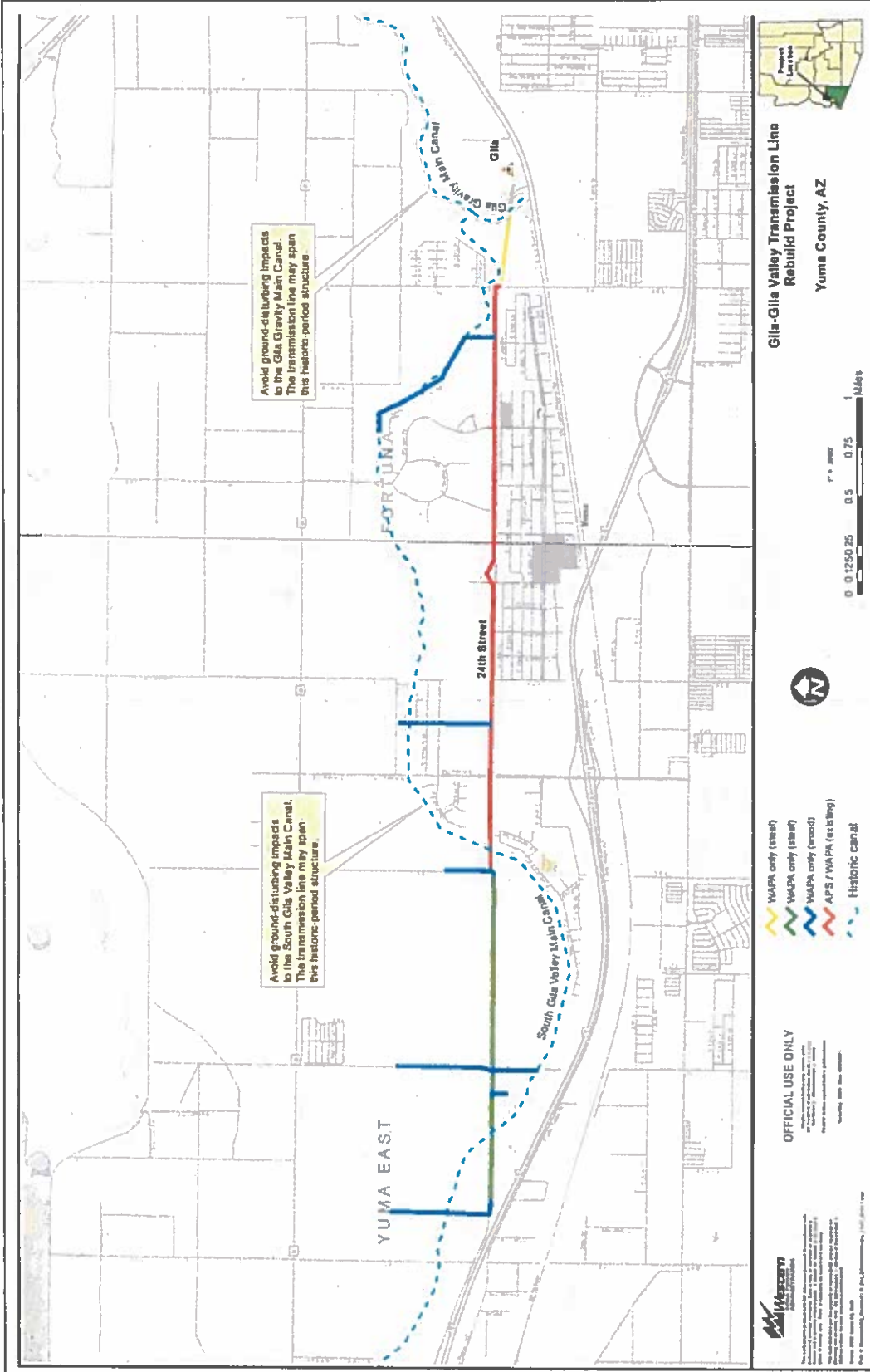
NOTES

1. ALL POLES AND WIRE ON LATERALS WILL BE REPLACED.
2. ALL TRANSFORMER BANKS SIZED FOR 100 HORSEPOWER MOTORS.
3. ALL EXISTING AND NEW OVERHEAD LINES WILL BE IN 40' WIDE EASEMENT.

EXPLANATION

- NEW POLE
- EXISTING POLE
- Existing Underground
- NEW 34.5kV
- EXISTING 34.5kV
- NEW 34.5/450V 112kVA TRANSFORMER BANK
- EXISTING 34.5/450V TRANSFORMER BANK TO BE REMOVED
- EXISTING 480 VOLT 4 WIRE SERVICE DROP
- Existing Service Drop

Proposed Action (2 of 2). Existing lateral lines will be rebuilt and extended.



Proposed Action showing known avoidance areas.

Laydown Yard Location at 24th Street and Araby Road in Yuma, Arizona.

