

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
AND FLOODPLAIN STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

**Electrical District 2 to Saguaro No. 2 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project,  
Pinal County, Arizona  
DOE/EA-1972**

**AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration**

**ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact Issuance and Floodplain Statement of Findings**

**BACKGROUND:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Western Area Power Administration (Western) proposes to rebuild a 35.6-mile-long, 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line located between the existing Electrical District (ED) 2 and Saguaro Substations in Pinal County, Arizona. The rebuilt line would have an estimated 213 weathered (rusted finish) steel monopoles that would be 80 to 90 feet tall and spaced 700 to 1,100 feet apart. In comparison, the existing line is composed of 461 wood H-frame and single-pole structures that are 60 to 70 feet tall and spaced 600 to 800 feet apart. Western proposes this project to increase the reliability and safety of transmission service to three Central Arizona Project pumping plants (Brady, Picacho and Red Rock) that supply water to users in Pima and Pinal Counties in Arizona.

Western prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing the Proposed Action and a No Action Alternative. The EA is titled “Electrical District 2 to Saguaro No. 2 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild: Final Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1972)” and dated March 2015. Western is the lead Federal agency, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs-San Carlos Irrigation Project and Bureau of Reclamation are cooperating agencies. Western incorporates this EA by reference.

Western determined that the Proposed Action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect species listed under the Endangered Species Act. On December 12, 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with Western’s finding (AESO/SE 02EAAZ00-2015-I-0150). Western consulted with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. On December 29, 2014, the SHPO concurred with Western’s eligibility determinations and finding of adverse effect regarding the undertaking (SHPO-2014-0054). On July 31, 2015, Western, Arizona State Land Department, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs-San Carlos Irrigation Project, and the SHPO executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to resolve the undertaking’s adverse effects. On August 13, 2015, Western filed the MOA with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

**DETERMINATION:** Based on the analysis contained in DOE/EA-1972, Western determined that the Proposed Action to rebuild the ED2 to Saguaro No. 2 115-kV Transmission Line does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, preparation an environmental impact statement is not required, and Western issues this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

In addition, based on the analysis of Water Resources and Floodplains in DOE/EA-1972 (Pages 3-54 to 3-60), Western determined that the Proposed Action would not adversely affect floodplains or wetlands.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Additional information and copies of the EA and FONSI are available to all interested parties and the public from the following contact:

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The EA and FONSI can be downloaded from Western's or DOE's website at:

<https://www.wapa.gov/regions/DSW/Environment/Pages/ed2-saguaro-nepa.aspx>  
<http://energy.gov/nepa/nepa-documents/environmental-assessments-ea>  
<http://energy.gov/nepa/findings-no-significant-impact-fonsi>

For further information on DOE's NEPA process, contact:

Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director  
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