



# U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Davis Dam Substation Erosion Control and Fence Improvements (revised)

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Bullhead City, Mohave County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Desert Southwest Region (DSW), proposes to control erosion and add fences and within the existing Davis Dam Substation in order to improve the safety and operation of the bulk electric system. The erosion control tasks consist of: 1) Re-grading a 60-by-60-foot area and adding a 10-by-10-foot rip-rap pad near the west corner of the maintenance building on WAPA land (and near the newly proposed fence); 2) Building a 20-foot-wide, 200-foot-long concrete drainage ditch and a 20 by 20 foot rip-rap pad along the south side of the access road leading from Davis Dam Road on BOR land; and 3) Adding rock-filled gabion baskets and a rip-rap pad in a 20 by 24 foot area on the north side of the access road leading from Davis Dam Road on Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) land. The fencing tasks consist of: 1) constructing a total of 310 feet of chain-link fence in two locations on top of cliffs situated within 100 feet of the staffed maintenance building on WAPA land; 2) Adding 100 feet of guard rail at the top of a cliff situated within 100 feet of the maintenance building on WAPA land; and 3) Adding 300 feet of reflectors posts to both sides of the existing access road within 250 feet of the maintenance building on WAPA land. Workers shall use existing access roads to reach work areas. No road improvements are planned.

WAPA plans to conduct this work in the Summer of 2018, and it is expected to take three weeks to complete.

See Attached Continuation Sheet

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.11 - Electric power substations and interconnection 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:

5-1-18

## Davis Dam Substation Erosion Control and Fence Improvements (revised) Continuation Sheet

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This Categorical Exclusions supersedes the original one issued on 4/27/2018. On 5/1/2018 WAPA received updated guidance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and WAPA determined that special conditions are not needed for the Desert Tortoise (Mohave population).

### **Special Conditions:**

#### **1. Biological Resources**

- a. Federal law prohibits the "take" of endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate wildlife and plants, and destruction or adverse modification of designated Critical Habitat. Federal law also prohibits the "take" of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. "Take" means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect a protected animal or any part thereof, or attempt to do any of those things without a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- b. If evidence of any protected species is found in the project area, the Contractor shall immediately notify the COR and provide the location and nature of the findings. The Contractor shall stop all activity within 100-feet of the protected species or habitat, and not proceed until directed to do so by the COR

#### **2. Cultural Resources**

- a. **GENERAL:** Do not remove or alter cultural artifacts or paleontological resources (fossils). Cultural artifacts are of potential scientific or cultural importance and include bones, tools, historic buildings, and features. Paleontological resources can be of scientific importance and include mineralized animals and plants or trace fossils such as footprints. Both cultural and paleontological resources are protected by Federal Regulations during Federal construction projects.
- b. **UNKNOWN CULTURAL OR PALEONTOLOGICAL SITES:** On rare occasions cultural or paleontological sites may be discovered during excavation or other earth-moving activities.
  - i. **Reporting:** If evidence of a cultural or paleontological site is discovered, immediately notify the Regional Preservation Officer (602-605-2842) and give the location and nature of the findings. Stop all activities within a 50-foot radius of the discovery and do not proceed with work within that radius until directed to do so by the Regional Preservation Officer.
  - ii. **Care of Evidence:** Do not damage or remove artifacts or fossils uncovered during construction.

bcc.

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**FILE: 5440.04 DAD**