



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Liberty Substation: Rudd Bay/Transfer Bay Equipment/Component Upgrades.

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

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

Proposed Action Description:

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is proposing to perform multiple component upgrades and equipment replacements at Liberty substation. Proposed work includes replacement of an existing gas breaker with a new gas breaker at the Transfer Bay. Additionally, at both the Rudd Bay and Transfer Bay, there would be multiple upgrades, including jumpers, disconnection switches, rigid bus ties, and support structures. Lastly, new cable trays and associated electrical equipment would be installed within the existing trench at the "T" juncture, north of the Transfer Bay. It is expected that new or expanded foundations would be required for the support structures.

The proposed upgrades are needed for the purpose of increasing the amperage of the equipment from 2000 amps to 3000 amps, to meet Arizona Public Service (APS) and Salt River Project (SRP) requirements.

Work would begin in winter of 2018 and must be completed by May 1, 2019.

Please see the attached Categorical Exclusion continuation sheet.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3 - Routine maintenance

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: **Matthew D. Blevins** Digitally signed by Matthew D. Blevins
Date: 2018.07.11 15:20:59 -06'00'

Date Determined: 07/11/2018

Liberty Substation (LIB)
Rudd Bay/Transfer Bay Equipment and Component Upgrades
Categorical Exclusion Continuation Sheet

Special Conditions

Compliance:

- **Asbestos:**
 - WAPA's Compliance Specialist will perform a pre-work asbestos survey in the cable trench. If asbestos is determined to be present, WAPA's Compliance Specialist will coordinate with WAPA's Construction Department (G5600) to communicate next steps.

- **Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6) Emissions:**
 - WAPA's construction contractor (Contractor) shall record pounds of SF6 gas purchased from equipment manufacturers, distributors, or provided by WAPA. The Contractor shall record quantities of SF6 gas, including:
 - Record serial number of each cylinder (provided by WAPA for existing or government furnished equipment, WAPA will provide SF6 Tracking form) or if Contractor purchased cylinders.
 - Record total weight in pounds of each cylinder (provided by WAPA)
 - Record tare weight in pounds of each cylinder (provided by WAPA)
 - Record pounds of SF6 gas stored in containers, before transferring into energized equipment. (Total weight – tare weight) (provided by WAPA)
 - Nameplate capacity in pounds of SF6 gas containing equipment.
 - Record pounds of SF6 gas left in containers, after transferring into energized equipment.
 - Scales used to weigh cylinders must be accurate to within 1% of true weight and must have current calibration sticker. WAPA will provide the Government furnished scales to the Contractor.

 - Field Quality Testing and SF6 Gas Handling:
 - The Contractor shall test all functions to verify correct operation and conduct a leak test. No SF6 gas leakage shall be allowed from any equipment or storage containers.
 - Atmospheric venting of SF6 gas is not allowed.

 - Certificates of Disposal and Receipts:
 - The Contractor shall use WAPA's SF6 Tracking Form for Adding SF6 to Breakers for reporting quantities listed above.
 - The Contractor shall record and remove all SF6 gas from old breakers the Contractor is responsible for recycling.
 - The Contractor shall record each cylinder serial number, total weight of SF6 gas, and gas breaker serial number.

 - The Contractor shall submit SF6 Gas Reporting Forms to the COR prior to submittal of final invoice.

- **Equipment Disposal**
 - G5600 shall coordinate with WAPA's Environmental Department (G0400) to initiate equipment disposal procedures.
- **Recycled Materials Quantities**

GENERAL: All materials generated from the project that can be recycled, shall be recycled. The Contractor shall record quantities of material by category that is salvaged, recycled, reused, or reprocessed, including:

- Transformers, Breakers: Weight without oil.
- Aluminum Conductor – Steel Reinforced (ACSR): Weight in pounds or tons.
- Steel: Weight in pounds or tons.
- Aluminum: Weight in pounds or tons.
- Copper: Weight in pounds or tons.
- Other Metals: Weight in pounds or tons.
- Oil: Gallons (separate by type - less than 2 ppm PCB, 2 to 50 ppm PCB, and 50 or greater ppm PCB).
- Gravel, Asphalt, Or Concrete: Weight in pounds or tons.
- Batteries: Weight in pounds.
- Treated Wood Utility Poles and Crossarms: Weight in pounds.
- Wood construction material: Weight in pounds.
- Cardboard: Weight in pounds.
- Porcelain Insulators: Weight in pounds.

RECYCLED MATERIAL QUANTITY REPORT: The Contractor shall submit quantities (pounds or metric tons) of all recycled material by category to the COR within 30 days of recycling and prior to submittal of final invoice.

Biological Resources:

- **Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)**
 - If the work is completed before February 15, 2019, there are no special conditions required. With that said, from now until February 15, 2019, it is recommended that G5600 perform visual inspections at Liberty substation and remove any old, inactive nests (if present).
 - If the work is not completed by February 15, 2019 (whether beginning or on-going), G5600 shall contact G0400 to perform an inspection at Liberty substation.
 - If active nests are found, G0400 will establish a 40-ft avoidance area around the active nest, meanwhile G0400 will initiate active nest relocation/removal procedures. During this time, there shall be no work within the 40-ft avoidance area.

Cultural Resources:

Based on the scope of work and location, there are no special conditions required.