



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title:

PCK-LIB 345-kV Transmission Line Conductor Wire Repair Near Structure 166-1

Program or Field Office: WAPA DSW Phoenix Office

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

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Desert Southwest Region (DSW) proposes to replace broken conductor line wires near structure 166-1 along the Peacock-Liberty 345-kV Transmission Line (PCK-LIB 345-kV) in Yavapai County, AZ. Repair crews will drive to 166-1 tower span location and use an insulated man-lift bucket vehicle to replace the broken-frayed conductor wire. WAPA repair crews will stay within the Right-of-Way (ROW) and utilize existing access roads to conduct the repair.

Please see attachment 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: **SEAN BERRY**

Digitally signed by SEAN BERRY
Date: 2019.03.19 09:58:23 -07'00'

Date Determined: 3/19/19

PCK-LIB 345-kV Transmission Line Conductor Wire Repair Categorical Exclusion Continuation Sheet

Biological Concerns

Existing dirt access roads will be utilized to reach structure 166-1 along this transmission line in the ROW. No road grading or blading will occur.

Habitats within the action area are mixed Joshua Tree Woodland and Desert Scrub, consisting primarily of Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), Cholla (*Cylindropuntia spp.*), and creosote bush (*Larrea tridentate*). During a field visit by WAPA Biologist on March 11, 2019, no nests of migratory or other protected birds were observed on structure 166-1 or adjacent structures. However, nesting birds may occur during the active bird nesting season from March 1-August 15 and repair crews should remain vigilant when conducting any vegetation removal and assessing structures prior to disturbance. Any active bird's nests will be recorded and WAPA repair crews notified prior to conductor line repairs.

If active nests are present, then WAPA repair crews will minimize their time and noise during the repair, and notify WAPA Biologist.

Cultural Resource Concerns

Based upon the results of a Class I literature review, no historic properties lie within the area of potential effects. WAPA made a finding of No Historic Properties Affected per Stipulation V.A.1 of the Programmatic Agreement.

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

UNKNOWN CULTURAL OR PALEONTOLOGICAL SITES: On rare occasions cultural or paleontological sites may be discovered during excavation or other earth-moving activities.

- (1) **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.
- (1) **Care of Evidence:** Do not damage or remove artifacts or fossils uncovered during construction.

Donald Lash, NEPA
Tony Daly-Crews, Biologist
Sean Berry
DSW-Phoenix
G0400
Timothy Hibbs
Terry Kugler
DSW-Phoenix
G5200

Andrew Montano (DSW external website)
Matthew Blevins
HQ-Lakewood
A7400

CX file