



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Bouse Upgrade Project - Geotechnical Drilling Investigations

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Parker, La Paz County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) plans to conduct geotechnical investigations at up to 26 locations to determine if transmission line construction would be fiscally and technically feasible in the Parker, Arizona area. WAPA selected these general locations based on technical need, such as where turning structures, which carry the most weight, would be located, and the availability of existing vehicular access. WAPA will determine the exact drilling locations in the field based on the following criteria: 1) stay within 100 feet of the planned drilling location; 2) minimize overland vehicular travel, and; 3) avoid washes, steep slopes, and obstacles (e.g., gas pipeline).

At each location, WAPA would drill a hole, 4-to-6-inches in diameter and 40 feet deep as well as collect a sediment sample, 0.33 cubic meter in volume, for laboratory analysis. WAPA would conduct Standard Penetration Tests and Cone Penetration Tests, and, if bedrock is encountered, Rock Corings. WAPA would backfill the holes with the drilled sediments, compact the sediments in the upper 4 feet of the hole, and mound any excess sediment over the hole's location in anticipation of future settlement. The most commonly used equipment for this work is a drill rig mounted on a 3-axle flatbed truck. WAPA would use existing roads or two-tracks in their current condition and drive vehicles overland for short distances where roads are not present.

WAPA plans to start geotechnical fieldwork by June 17, 2019, or as soon as possible.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.1 - Site characterization and environmental monitoring

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: 2019.06.10 14:38:09 -07'00'

Date Determined: 6/10/19