U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Coolidge-Valley Farms Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Desert Southwest Region

Location(s) (City/County/State): Coolidge, Pinal County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:
WAPA would rebuild 6.1 miles of the existing Coolidge to Valley Farms 115-kilovolt Transmission Line within the previously disturbed, 100-foot-wide right-of-way to mitigate violations, add capacity, and improve reliability and safety, while reducing maintenance costs. WAPA would replace wood pole structures that were determined structurally deficient with new wood ones in the same locations. WAPA would remove the existing conductor and replace it with one with a higher capacity and less sag. WAPA would replace the insulators and other hardware at each pole structure. WAPA would remove the existing overhead protection ground wire and replace it with a fiber optic ground wire used for utility communication purposes. In order to connect the fiber to equipment, WAPA would install new underground conduit from the takeoff structures to the control buildings within the Coolidge and Valley Farms substations. WAPA would use existing access roads to reach the right-of-way. WAPA would create new roads or improve existing ones located within the right-of-way to safely drive work vehicles to each structure.

At a later date, WAPA would approve the construction contractor's project-specific, storage or equipment yard located near Coolidge or Florence. WAPA would review the location and disapprove ones with the potential for significant impacts. At the yard, WAPA's contractor would erect temporary fencing around the perimeter, compact the surface, remove vegetation, and add gravel.

WAPA would begin construction no earlier than December 2, 2019 and complete it no later than May 30, 2020 to avoid an outage during the peak summer season.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:
B4.12 - Construction of powerlines

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: 2019.03.13 16:23:48 -07'00' Date Determined: 3/13/2019