U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Remedial investigations at the Phoenix Area Office

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) plans to conduct remedial investigations at the Phoenix Area Office to identify chemicals of concern, such as halogenated volatile organic compounds (HVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) fluids, pesticides, fuels containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), gasoline, aviation fuel, and solvents. The study goal is to locate soils suspected of containing chemicals of concern, assess pathways to groundwater, and any impacts to groundwater. The Phoenix Area Office occurs within the West Van Buren Study Area, as identified by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

WAPA plans to collect and analyze soil and water samples obtained within WAPA's 30 acre parcel. Hand tools will be used to collect soil samples from dirt stockpiles, drain inlets, earth drains, and an oil-water separator. A hydraulic push rig will drill up to 20 holes to collect soil samples at 2, 10, and 20 feet below ground surface. A backhoe or small excavator will be used to reopen dry and leach wells for sampling. A dual-wall percussion sonic or air-rotary rig will drill up to six holes adjacent to dry and leach wells to obtain sediment samples at five foot intervals to a depth at least 10 feet below the well bottoms. A drill rig will excavate up to seven new groundwater monitoring wells up to 200 feet deep, and water samples will be collected quarterly until WAPA and ADEQ agree that the wells can be closed.

WAPA intends to start fieldwork on June 19, 2019 and complete it by October 10, 2019.

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: Matthew D. Blevins Digitally signed by Matthew D. Blevins Date: 2019.06.13 07:34:31 -06'00' Date Determined: June 13, 2019