



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Parker - Bouse: 2019 Integrated Vegetation Management

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): San Bernardino County, CA and La Paz County, AZ

Proposed Action Description:

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is proposing to reduce incompatible vegetation and fuel loading within the Right-of-Way (ROW) along the Parker (PAD) to Bouse (BSE) transmission line segment (approx. 23 miles). Proposed work includes cutting and/or trimming trees and shrubs beginning at the PAD substation, ending at the BSE substation. All vegetative debris would be collected and hauled away on trucks. The project area would be accessed via existing roads in the ROW. The work would be accomplished using bucket trucks and chainsaws (hand-cutting only). Existing access roads are determined to be sufficient for use, and as such, overland travel, access road maintenance, or any ground disturbance are not authorized.

The proposed work is needed to maintain the safe operation and reliability of the bulk electrical system.

Biological surveys for special status and sensitive species would be performed for segments in California prior to hand clearing of vegetation. Qualified Tortoise Biologists would monitor all activities that occur within the range of the Mojave Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*).

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:

Date Determined: