U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Mead-Perkins (MED-PES) and Peacock-Liberty (PCK-LIB) ROW Herbicide Follow-Up

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Mohave, Maricopa and Yavapai counties, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Desert Southwest Region (DSW), plans to conduct a follow-up herbicide application on incompatible vegetation only within the right-of-way (ROW) of the Mead-Perkins (MED-PES) 525-kilovolt (kV) transmission line starting at 88/3 near the Peacock Substation for 154 miles and within the ROW of the Peacock-Liberty (PCK-LIB) 345-kV transmission line for 150 miles within the counties of Mohave, Maricopa, and Yavapai, Arizona. The ROW width for the MED-PES transmission line is 200-feet and the ROW width for the PCK-LIB transmission line is 170-feet. The MED-PES and PCK-LIB transmission lines adjoin and run parallel to each other roughly 850-feet south of the Peacock Substation and then the MED-PES transmission line cuts off and heads east to the Perkins Substation and the PCK-LIB continues southeast to the Liberty Substation. These transmission lines cross Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Defense, and Arizona State Lands Department managed lands as well as privately-owned lands.

WAPA plans on spot treating incompatible vegetation through the use of either reel tanks mounted on a flatbed truck or through the use of backpack sprayers within the ROWs to maintain a stable low-growing plant community underneath the transmission lines. WAPA would use existing access roads to perform this work. WAPA will not be blading or improving the existing access roads as part of this action. This work is needed to maintain the reliability and safety of the bulk electrical system.

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: 2020.04.10 08:14:58 -07'00' Date Determined: 4/10/2020