



# U.S. Department of Energy

## Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Apache GT5 & GT6 Generation Project

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Cochise County, Arizona

Proposed Action Description:

The Apache GT5 & GT6 Generation Project (Project) is proposed by the Arizona Electric Power Cooperative (AEPSCO), a rural member-owned generation and transmission electric cooperative formed in 1961 to provide electric generation service to local rural, member-owned electric distribution cooperatives in Arizona, western New Mexico, and California. On August 1, 2023, AEPSCO submitted an Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) to the Arizona Corporation Commission. To meet projected load growth requirements and capacity shortfalls identified in AEPSCO's 2023 IRP, AEPSCO is proposing to construct an additional 84-megawatt (MW) simple-cycle natural gas-fired turbine (SCGT) power plant and associated equipment at the existing Apache Generating Station (AGS) located south of the unincorporated community of Cochise, Arizona in Cochise County. The AGS began operation in 1963 and currently operates three steam and four gas turbine units to generate a combined 625 MW of power.

As part of the Project to construct the two new generators at AGS, GT5 and GT6, AEPSCO requested that WAPA relocate an approximately 0.25-mile (1,300 foot) segment of WAPA's Tucson-Apache 115-kV transmission line that currently exists on site to accommodate the locations of the SCGTs and associated equipment. The line's current north-south alignment will be shifted approximately 875 feet to the west and its current east-west alignment would be shifted approximately 700 feet north, see Figure 1 on the attached page for reference. WAPA will also update AEPSCO's existing outgrant easement to allow the expansion of the AGS supporting infrastructure on WAPA-owned property.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B4.13 - Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines
- B4.9 - Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way
- B1.24 - Property transfers

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.

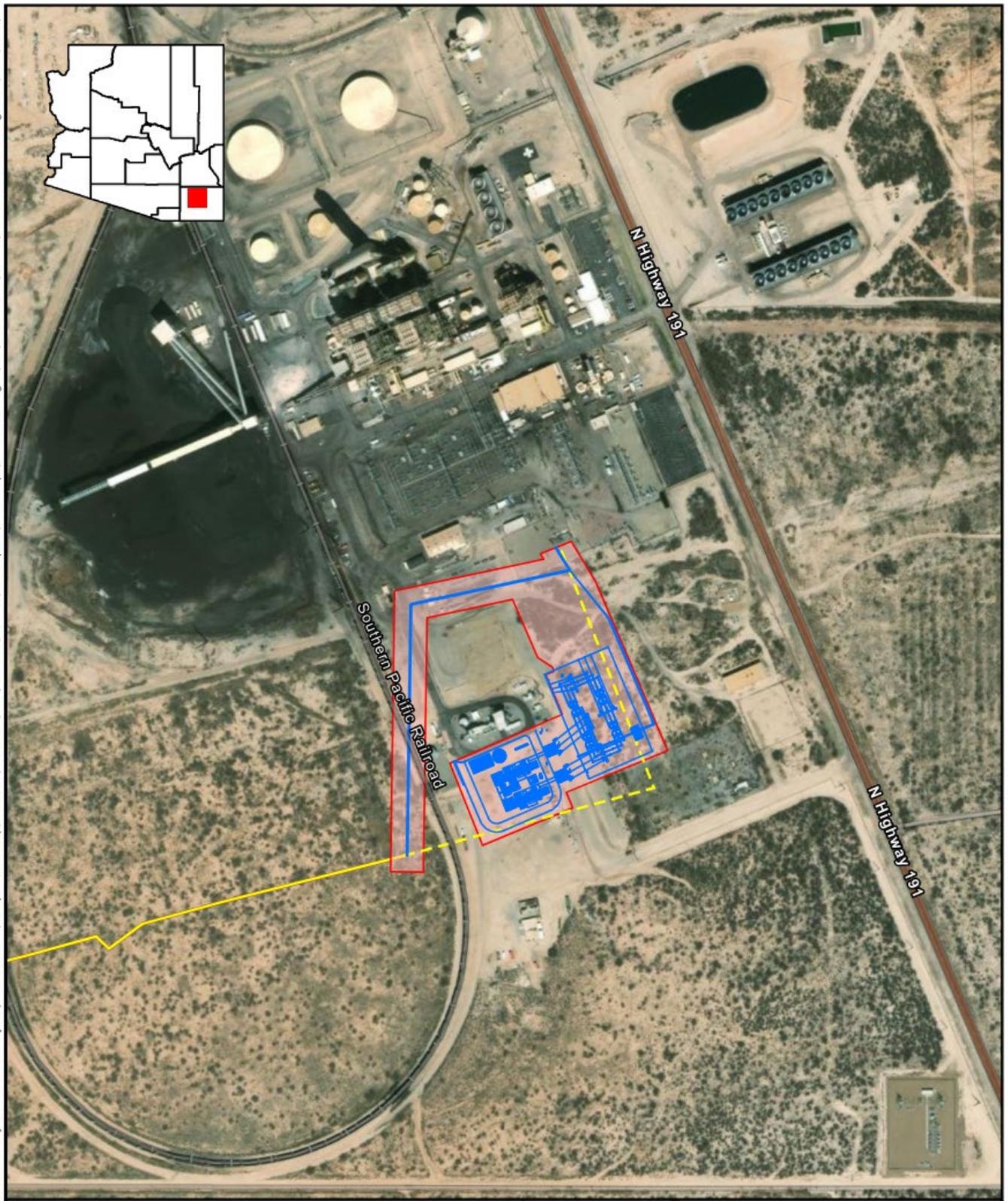
The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 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:

Path: C:\AEP\CO\Apache\GT\_Sand\VAEPCO\_GIS\Apache.aprx ckmalloitt 5/28/2024  
 Service Layer Credits: Hybrid Reference Layer: Esri Community Maps Contributors. © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US



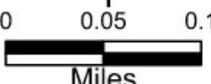
 Approximately 7.65-acre Ground Disturbance	 
 SCGT and Associated Equipment	
 To Be Relocated Existing WAPA Transmission Line	
 WAPA Relocated Transmission Line	
 Existing WAPA Transmission Line	



Figure 1  
 Proposed Layout  
 AEPCO Apache Generating Station  
 Cochise, AZ