

**Project title:** Routine Maintenance along CPJ-ODA 259, 260, 261, 262, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, and 291

**Requested By:** Steve Tuggle

**Mail Code :** N1400 **Phone:** X4549

**Date Submitted:** 5/5/2010

**Date Required:** 5/21/2010

☒ **Description of the Project:**

Western Area Power Administration (Western), Sierra Nevada Region (SNR), is responsible for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of federally owned and operated transmission lines throughout California. Western must comply with the National Electric Safety Code, Western States Coordinating Council and Western directives for protecting human safety and maintaining the reliable operation of the transmission system. In order to accomplish this, Western proposes to rehabilitate and/or maintain its existing maintenance roads and transmission line rights-of-way (ROWs) for the above-mentioned transmission line spans.

The primary purpose of Western's O&M program is to maintain transmission line ROWs, substations, communication sites, and associated access roads. O&M activities include vegetation removal using manual or mechanical methods and access road repair and upgrades. These routine activities are necessary to ensure system reliability and public safety by preserving structural integrity of transmission line towers or poles, allowing access to the transmission line towers or poles for routine maintenance or repairs, and removing vegetation that could cause arcing, electrical outages, and fires.

The purpose and need for this specific action (in addition to all-weather access for emergency operation activities) is to ensure system reliability and allow crews access to the towers for routine O&M. The proposed activity would include vegetation management along the maintenance road(s) and transmission line ROW. Vegetation management may be performed by hand clearing in areas where the sensitive resources are present and require such project conservation measures. In all other areas, vegetation may be removed by manual or mechanical methods. Vegetation debris will may be chipped and spread out under the ROW or removed from the ROW, and herbicide application may also take place. Additionally, access and maintenance road upgrade activities that include re-grading and installation of water bars may be completed.

☒ **Location of the Project:**

The proposed action would be implemented in Section 35, T41N, R03E; Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, T40N, R03E; Sections 10, 11 and 12, T40N, R02E, MDM. These spans are along the Captain Jack-Olinda transmission line in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest,

☒ **Attachments:**

5 maps

☐ **Work Order Number:**

|                                                              |                                                     |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Western Area Power<br>Administration<br>Sierra Nevada Region | <b>CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)<br/>DETERMINATION</b> | <b>Project Number:</b><br>100501 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|

Integral Elements

**Project Title:** Routine Maintenance along CPJ-ODA 259, 260, 261, 262, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, and 291

**Category of Action:**

**B1.3:** Routine maintenance/custodial services for buildings, structures, infrastructures, equipment. Maintenance includes repair of road embankments, erosion control and soil stabilization measures such as reseeding and re-vegetation.

**B1.13:** Construction and or relocation of onsite pathways and short onsite access roads.

**Regulatory Requirements for a Categorical Exclusion Determination:** The Department of Energy (DOE), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021.410(b) require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded (see full text in regulation).

1. The proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Appendixes A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:
  - a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders.
  - b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include categorically excluded facilities.
  - c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products preexisting in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or
  - d. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B (4)).
2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal which may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;
3. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

**Results of Review:** In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021), The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level of NEPA review needed. Based on this review, Western has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of action listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement) or an environmental assessment (EA).

The proposed action meets the above regulatory criteria and there are no significant adverse environmental effects associated with this action.

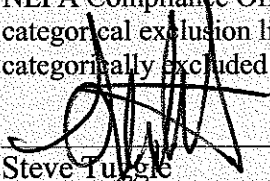
### Action taken

Note: All Documentation is Attached

- ☒ Categorical Exclusion (CX)
- ☒ Integral Elements
- ☐ NEPA Attachment Sheet

- ☒ Minimization
- ☒ Attachments (Maps)

**Determination:** Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion listed above. Therefore, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

  
Steve Tuggle  
NEPA Compliance Officer

5/20/10  
Date  
☒ Approved

|                                |            |                                 |                      |                                                                                                                                   |
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| CC:<br>Requestor: Steve Tuggle | File Code: | Assigned to:<br>Ricardo Velarde | Project #:<br>100501 | Environmental Specialist--<br>Date:<br> 5/20/10 |
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