



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Henderson-Mead #2 230-kV Transmission Line, Erosion Repair at Structure 2/4

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

Location(s) (City/County/State): Boulder City, Clark County, Nevada

Proposed Action Description:

Western plans to conduct erosion repair work on the existing Henderson-Mead (HEN-MED) #2 230-kV transmission line in Clark County, Nevada. The project is located on private land in Township 23 North, Range 64 East, Section 19 (Boulder City, NV Quad). The purpose of the project is to repair erosion which has occurred around the west leg of structure 2-4 and to provide protection from future damage due to the adjacent wash. The proposed project consists of construction of a revetment wall at each structure to divert storm water, backfilling damaged areas with free-draining material, and placing riprap armoring to prevent undermining of the revetment wall due to scour.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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:

Jord Manawick

Date Determined:

9-11-13

Western Area Power Administration, Desert Southwest Region Henderson-Mead #2 230-kV Transmission Line Erosion Repair, Structure 2-4 - Continuation Sheet

Project Description (Continued)

The scope of work includes the following:

1. Excavate the work areas using a backhoe;
2. Place riprap with geotextile underlayment. The riprap will be a stone barrier consisting of large rock that is buried below ground then graded upward toward the transmission structure footings it is meant to protect. A typical protective riprap barrier will be buried at about 5 feet below the surface at its deepest point and be graded up to about 3 feet above the surface.
3. Place compacted embankment using native materials produced from on-site excavation. Additional embankment required for backfill may be utilized from a local approved commercial source;
4. Utilize temporary erosion control Best Management Practices;
5. Stage materials at an approved location owned by the City of Boulder City, approximately 0.75 miles east of structure 2-4. The staging area will measure approximately 150 feet by 150 feet and will be located in an existing disturbed area;
6. Utilize existing roads for project access. Road improvements may be necessary to accommodate equipment and vehicles.

Equipment used on-site may include dozers, front end loaders, and dump trucks. Transport trucks with flatbed trailers may be necessary for delivery of some materials. Specialized equipment, such as hydraulic hammers and backhoes, may be used for driving steel angles or sheet piling. All work would be completed in the dry season with locally sourced fill materials from a commercial company. No backfill material would be left in the wash channel upon construction completion.

The construction footprint for the project may be up to 0.3 acre, including temporary disturbance for vehicles accessing work areas. The project is anticipated to start no sooner than November 1, 2013 and will take about one month to construct.

Special Conditions

Desert Tortoise

1. A qualified biologist will survey the project alignment, including transmission line access road and associated work sites (e.g., staging areas) for desert tortoise, tortoise burrows, or other sign.
2. A Biological Monitor will be present during all project activities. The Biological Monitor will be authorized by Western to temporarily halt construction activity if needed to prevent harm to desert tortoise. The Biological Monitor's responsibilities will include, but will not be limited to the following:
 - a. Inspection of locations of any tortoise burrows or sign that are discovered in the work areas;
 - b. Regular inspection of the work areas, including access routes and other areas related to project activities, for desert tortoise;
 - c. Regular inspection beneath vehicles and equipment to ensure that they do not present potential hazards to wildlife, including desert tortoises.
3. No construction activities will take place in the vicinity of a desert tortoise. If a desert tortoise is observed, it will be left to move away from the work site on its own. The Biological Monitor

and all workers shall regularly observe the work areas for desert tortoise. At any time a desert tortoise is seen within or near any work area (including access road, turnouts, staging areas, etc.), work in the area will cease and the Biological Monitor and project supervisor will immediately notified the Service.

4. The Biological Monitor will conduct employee training to ensure that all workers on the project site (including contractors) are aware of all applicable avoidance measures for biological resources. Specifically, workers will be required to (1) limit all activities to approved work areas; (2) check beneath and around vehicles and equipment before moving them; (3) report any desert tortoise observation in the project area and access routes, to the supervisor or biological monitor; (4) avoid contact with any wildlife that may approach a work area; (5) pick up and properly dispose of any food, trash or construction refuse; and (6) report any spilled materials (oil, fuel, solvent, engine coolant, raw concrete, or other material potentially hazardous to wildlife), to the supervisor or biological monitor. In addition, all workers will be informed of civil and criminal penalties for violations of the federal ESA and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
5. Vehicles will not exceed 20 miles per hour on access roads. The Biological Monitor will ensure compliance with speed limits during project activities.
6. No pets will be permitted in any project areas.
7. Only water or an alternative substance approved by the COR shall be used as a dust suppressant. Water applied to dirt roads for dust abatement shall use the minimal amount needed to meet safety and air quality standards to prevent the formation of puddles, which could attract desert tortoises and other wildlife to construction sites. The Biological Monitor shall patrol these areas to ensure water does not puddle and shall take appropriate action to reduce water application where necessary.

Cultural Resources

8. No construction activities shall take place until Western has received concurrence from the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. Western Environmental will provide notice to the COR when the SHPO concurrence has been received.

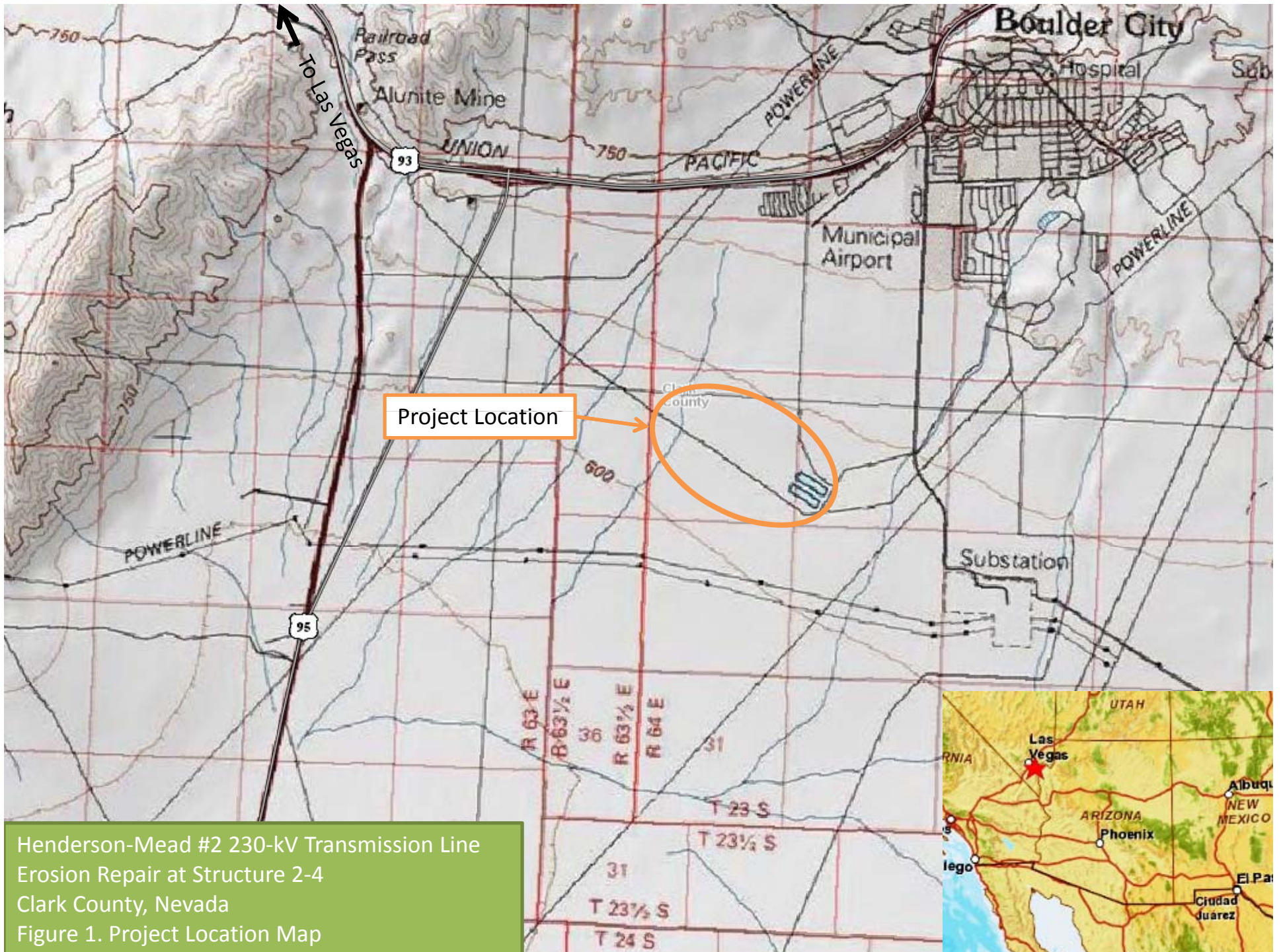
Air Quality

9. A Dust Control Permit is required for soil-disturbing or construction projects greater than or equal to 0.25 acres. The Contractor shall ensure that construction activities and the operation of equipment are undertaken to reduce the emission of air pollutants. "Construction activities" consist of land stripping, earthmoving, blasting, trenching, road construction, grading, landscaping, stockpiling/storing/loading excavated materials, or any other activity associated with land development which results in a disturbed surface area or dust generating operations, equal to or greater than 0.1 acres. Additional information is available at http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/AirQuality/Pages/Compliance_DustPermitting.aspx.
 - a. The Contractor shall complete and submit a Dust Control Permit Application Form and pay any permit fees to Clark County Department of Air Quality before construction activities begin within Clark County.
 - b. The Contractor shall submit the appropriate fee (depending on total surface area disturbed) with their Dust Control Permit and Plan Application Forms. The Contractor shall submit copies of the Permit and Plan application forms to the COR 14 days prior to the start of work.
10. The Contractor shall control dust per the *Construction Activities Dust Control Handbook*. The Contractor shall familiarize himself with Dust Control Handbook.
11. The Contractor shall not use oil as a dust suppressant. Only water or an alternative substance approved by the COR shall be used as a dust suppressant.

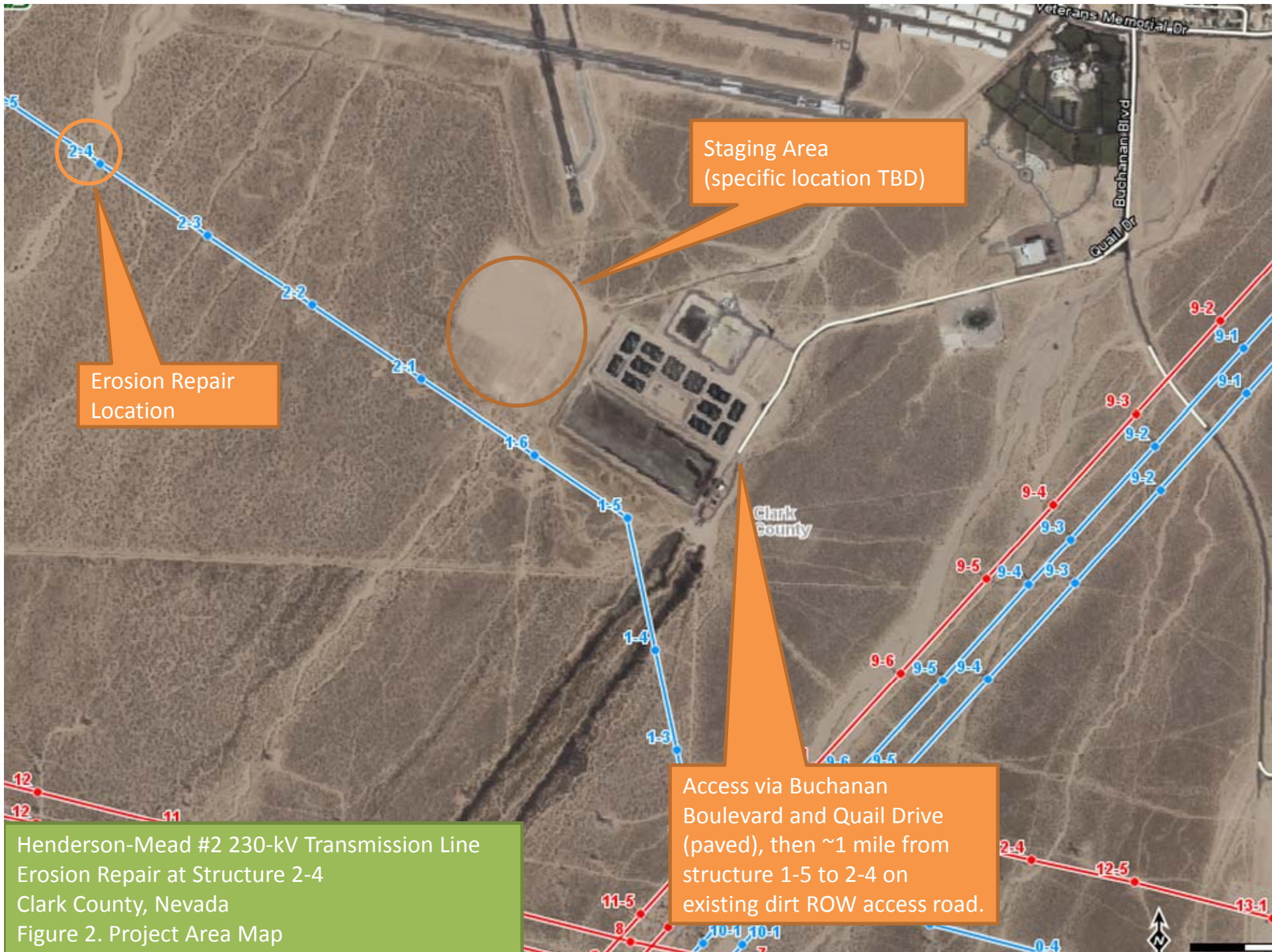
Checklist for Categorical Exclusion Determination, revised Nov. 2011

Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)	Disagree	Agree	Unknown
(b)(1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix A or B to subpart D.		X	
(b)(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; and unresolved conflicts concerning alternate uses of available resources		X	
(b)(3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Segmentation can occur when a proposal is broken down into small parts in order to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. The scope of a proposal must include the consideration of connected and cumulative actions, that is, 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 individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or § 1021.211 of this part concerning limitations on actions during EIS preparation.		X	
B. Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B. :	NO	YES	UNKNOWN
(1) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.	X		
(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;	X		
(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;	X		
(4) Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. An environmentally sensitive resource is typically a resource that has been identified as needing protection through Executive Order, statute, or regulation by Federal, state, or local government, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. An action may be categorically excluded if, although sensitive resources are present, the action would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on those resources (such as construction of a building with its foundation well above a sole-source aquifer or upland surface soil removal on a site that has wetlands). Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to:	X		

(i)	Property (such as sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by a Federal, state, or local government, or property determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;	X		
(ii)	Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat) or Federally- proposed or candidate species or their habitat (Endangered Species Act); state-listed or state-proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; Federally-protected marine mammals and Essential Fish Habitat (Marine Mammal Protection Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act); and otherwise Federally-protected species (such as under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act);	X		
(iii)	Floodplains and wetlands (as defined in 10 CFR 1022.4, —Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements: “Definitions,” or its successor);	X		
(iv)	Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national monuments, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges, scenic areas (such as National Scenic and Historic Trails or National Scenic Areas), and marine sanctuaries;	X		
(v)	Prime or unique farmland, or other farmland of statewide or local importance, as defined at 7 CFR 658.2(a), —Farmland Protection Policy Act: Definitions, or its successor;	X		
(vi)	Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and	X		
(vii)	Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests.; or	X		
(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 of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.	X		



Henderson-Mead #2 230-kV Transmission Line
Erosion Repair at Structure 2-4
Clark County, Nevada
Figure 1. Project Location Map



Staging Area
(specific location TBD)

Erosion Repair
Location

Access via Buchanan
Boulevard and Quail Drive
(paved), then ~1 mile from
structure 1-5 to 2-4 on
existing dirt ROW access road.

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Figure 2. Project Area Map