



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Program or Field Office: TRIBAL ENERGY PROGRAM
Project Title AZ-TEP-HUALAPAI TRIBE
Location: Tribal HUALAPAI TRIBE AZ

Proposed Action or Project Description

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

The Hualapai Tribe of Arizona proposes a Phase II project to advance development of the Hualapai resources by narrowing the focus to the Nelson and Grand Canyon West sites which have wind development potential. The project would encompass pre-construction activities necessary to scope and build a complete wind energy program for the Hualapai Tribe. During Phase I of the project, the Tribe prepared an Environmental Screening Report that covered both of the proposed locations and included a commitment by the Tribe to prepare the necessary environmental work to support the development of NEPA documentation. Phase II of the Nelson and Grand Canyon West Wind Projects includes (1) complete site development/civil engineering and electrical engineering activities; (2) identification of an initiation of negotiations with a wind developer with interest in building and operating the wind farm; (3) complete a power line construction options study; (4) identification of the wind energy market; (5) initiation of work on rights-of-way, lease agreements, and environmental permitting; (6) determination of cost-sharing options; and (7) identification of employment opportunities for members of the Tribe. A meteorological tower would also be installed or upgraded to collect additional environmental data for the project. Since Phase II of this project consists primarily of obtaining environmental permits, completing drawings, obtaining approvals and negotiations, lease agreements, and cost sharing options, as well as preparation of the NEPA documents, DOE has determined that Phase II of this project can be categorically excluded except for one of the subtask actions which involves contracting with a developer to establish final siting. This contracting action is pre-decisional and is not appropriate prior to the final NEPA document preparation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will serve as the lead agency for NEPA purposes.

Conditions: Excludes subtask of contracting with developer for final siting

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied: A9, B3.1

*-For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, see Subpart D of 10 CFR10 21

This action would not: threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities; disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021). Furthermore, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning 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.

ORO NEPA Compliance Officer

Gary S. Hartman

Date Determined:

7/6/2010



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Comments:

Webmaster: