

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation**  
**Application for New Right-Of-Way - AZA-035489**  
**DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-2012-008-CX**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: *Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO)*

Lease/Serial/Case File Number: AZA-035489

Proposed Action Title/Type: Granting of New Right-of-Way

Applicant: Arizona Public Service

Project Code: LVRAA911AI01

Location of Proposed Action:

T3S, R2W, western 20 feet of Section 3 and western 20 feet, north 260 feet of Section 10, G&SRM, Rainbow Valley, Maricopa County, Arizona. The power source is the APS Rainbow Substation, T2N, R2W, Section 35.

Description of Proposed Action:

Construction of an overhead 12kV distribution line to serve Southwest Gas Facilities. The proposed distribution line would cross BLM land for a distance of 5,546 feet and would be located in its entirety on land held under Southwest Gas ROW AZPHX-083799, originally granted to El Paso Natural Gas in 1947.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: The Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan (as amended).

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2).

Date Approved/Amended: June 1988

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

The Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Statement (June 1988) states on page 11: "Lower Gila Resource Area processes a variety of lands actions in the Lower Gila South RMP/EIS area – rights-of way, communication sites, easements, permits and unauthorized occupancy. All lands cases would continue to be evaluated on a case by case basis."

Explain specific or implied decision: BLM agrees to amend the Arizona Public Service's right-of-way permit AZA-035489 to allow construction of an overhead 12kV distribution line to serve Southwest Gas Facilities.

**C: Compliance with NEPA**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9: E. (13) "Amendments to

existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail **no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary.**”

A categorical exclusion (CX) is appropriate because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in H-1790-1, Appendix 5 or 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, applies.

**D. Signature**

*Review: We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with CX criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects (see Attachment 1). Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

Prepared by: [Redacted] 6/5/2012  
Michael Rice  
Project Manager

Reviewed by: [Redacted]  
Leah Baker  
Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Approved by: [Redacted] 7/17/2012  
Emily Garber  
Manager, Lower Sonoran Field Office

**E. Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Michael J. Rice (623-580-5646); [mrice@blm.gov](mailto:mrice@blm.gov),  
BLM, Phoenix District Office  
21605 North 7th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85027-2929  
623-580-5500; Fax: 623-580-5580

Hours: 7:30 am – 4:15 pm, M-F

A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.

**F. Recommendation**

**Project Description:**

Construction of an overhead 12kV distribution line to serve Southwest Gas Facilities. The proposed distribution line would cross BLM land for a distance of 5,546 feet and would be located in its entirety on land held under Southwest Gas ROW AZPHX-083799, originally granted to El Paso Natural Gas.

**Determination:**

Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations in Attachment 1 (BLM Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances). I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7/17/12

Emily Garber

Manager, Lower Sonoran Field Office

**Attachment 1**

**BLM Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances<sup>1</sup>**

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b><u>Comment (Y/N)</u></b>	<b><u>Staff Initial</u></b>
1. Have significant impacts on public health and safety?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MG</u>
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MG</u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MG</u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MG</u>
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MG</u>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MG</u>
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MG</u>
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MG</u>
9. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MG</u>
10. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MG</u>

AZA-035489  
DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-2012-008-CX

11. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?      NO      MG
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?      NO      MG

---

<sup>1</sup> If an action has any of these impacts, you must conduct NEPA analysis.