



Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

June 14, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Steven Croley  
The General Counsel (GC-1)

FROM: Patricia A. Hoffman *PH*  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Electricity Delivery and  
Energy Reliability (OE-1)

SUBJECT: Determination of Appropriate Level of  
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review

DOE Order 451.1B5 requires that each "Secretarial Officer and Head of a Field Organization shall, for matters under the office's purview:...(8) determine that an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement is appropriate or required."

On April 8, 2016 Nogales Transmission, L.L.C. (Nogales Transmission) applied to OE pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a high-voltage transmission line across the U.S.-Mexico border.

Nogales Transmission proposes to construct and operate the Nogales Interconnection Project (the Project), an approximately five mile long overhead transmission system originating at the Valencia Substation in Nogales, Arizona, connecting to the proposed Gateway Substation three miles to the West and then crossing the U.S. border two miles to the south of the Gateway Substation.

The proposed project facilities would be capable of transmitting up to 300 megawatts (MW) of power.

The DOE proposed action would be the issuance of a Presidential permit.

After due consideration of the nature and extent of the proposed project, including preliminary environmental information contained in the Presidential permit application, OE has determined that the appropriate level of NEPA review for this project is an environmental assessment (EA).

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Brian Mills, OE's NEPA Compliance Officer, at 202-586-8267.




**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

June 9, 2016

**TO:** PATRICIA HOFFMAN  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY

**THRU:** LIZ DALTON   
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY

**FROM:** MEGHAN CONKLIN   
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
FOR NATIONAL ELECTRICITY DELIVERY DIVISION

**SUBJECT:** Approval of NEPA Determination Memo

**DUE DATE:** June 15, 2016

**ISSUE:** Approval of the GC memo that the level of review for the Nogales Transmission project should be an Environmental Assessment.

**BACKGROUND:** On April 8, 2016 Nogales Transmission, L.L.C. (Nogales Transmission) applied to OE pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a high-voltage transmission line across the U.S.-Mexico border.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** You should concur on the determination that the level of review for the Nogales project is an Environmental Assessment pursuant to NEPA. The memo should then be set to GC-1 for approval.

Signature Patricia A. Hoffman  
Patricia A. Hoffman

Date: 6/15/14

- APPROVED/CONCUR
- APPROVED/CONCUR W/EDITS
- DISAPPROVED/NONCONCUR

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PACKAGE PREPARER

SUBJECT

Concurrence on Memo to GC-1 for NEPA Determination

ES #



(Insert Here)

N/A

PACKAGE PREPARER (NAME)/PROGRAM OFFICE

Christopher Lawrence/NEDD

CONCURRENCES – TO BE DETERMINED BY THE ORIGINATING OFFICE

NAME (PRINT)	TITLE	PROGRAM OFFICE	SIGNATURES		DATE	COMMENTS
			CONCUR	NONCUR		
Christopher Lawrence	Electricity Policy Analyst	NEDD			6/13/16	
Meghan Conklin	DAS	NEDD			6/13/16	
Liz Dalton	PDAS	OE-1				

OE-1 FRONT OFFICE CONCURRENCES

Michelle Dallafior	Senior Advisor	OE-1				
Alison Kennedy	Senior Advisor CF & PA	OE-1				
Devin Gladden	Senior Advisor All other	OE-1				

Please note: The final approval/concurrence will be provided by A/S Hoffman on the formal note