

facility would be enclosed within a small building on each site. In addition, a small communication tower (about 15 feet high) would be included within each fenced site. Electric power service would be provided to each metering site from existing electric distribution lines available within 100 feet of the site. Access to each pipeline meter interconnect facility would be from Hackberry Road.

At the southern terminus of the pipeline, a gas metering facility would be installed at the proposed power plant. This facility would consist of isolation valves, metering equipment, a filter separator, and pressure reduction and control valves used to feed gas to the turbines. The metering facility would be installed within the proposed power plant site.

At full capacity, the proposed power plant would use, and the gas pipeline would deliver, about 106.4 million cubic feet (MMCF) of gas per day, which is equivalent to 3,246 MMCF per month, or 38,960 MMCF per year. The potential exists to tap this pipeline and thereby supply gas to the Wikieup area (refer to Section 2.4.6, Wikieup Gas Tap).

Inspection of the pipeline would be accomplished by the pipeline owner and operator in accordance with U. S. Department of Transportation regulations, Parts 192.105, 106, and 107. The pipeline would be patrolled by air every six months. Routine inspection also would be conducted annually using vehicles that can drive directly over the pipeline (two-track access, resulting in, at worst, a 10-foot-wide pathway over the pipeline that would remain permanently disturbed). Areas not accessible by the vehicles (steep terrain, Big Sandy River, within the ACEC) would be inspected by foot. If leaks are encountered, they would be isolated, exposed, and repaired in accordance with industry practices. If excavation is needed to replace a section of pipe, the landowner or land manager would be notified and reclamation procedures would be followed as outlined in Appendix B.

2.2.6 Agricultural Development

In addition to the activities directly related to the electrical generation process, the Proposed Action would involve supplying selected lands and water to the Mohave County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) for agricultural use. Agricultural development would occur on about 107 acres, located about 1 mile southwest of the proposed power plant site in the northwest quarter of Section 7, T15N, R12W. Water for agricultural use would be well water (i.e., non-process water provided from the same water wells that would supply water for the proposed power plant). A maximum of 400 gpm (650 acre-feet per year) of water would be made available for agricultural use in this area. This amount of water would be provided if the crops produced required this much water and would be subtracted from the proposed water budget of 4,850 acre-feet per year for all Proposed Action (power plant and agricultural) uses. This proposed agricultural use of both land and water would continue even after plant closure.

Agricultural activities are proposed to include mainly forage crops or fruit/nut orchards. The following are potential crops that are being considered for the area, with their respective irrigation requirements:

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Water Requirement (per acre)</u>
Bermuda grass	5 to 6 acre-feet per year
Alfalfa	6 acre-feet per year
Small Grains	2 to 3 acre-feet per year
Vegetables (High Value)	2 to 3 acre-feet per year
Pecan Nuts	4 to 5 acre-feet per year
Olives	4 to 5 acre-feet per year

Source: Grumbles 2001

Areas within this 107 acres with significant gullying, rilling, or lack of topsoil due to slope or other factors would not be used for crop production. Soils also would be tested to

determine if high quantities of gypsum, lime, or other minerals resulting in high pH would limit productivity and treated if necessary.

Agricultural fertilizers and pesticides, including herbicides, would be applied as applicable for the specific agricultural operations. Specific fertilizer, pesticide/herbicide and other chemical requirements and application rates would depend on the type of crops grown. Application rates would follow manufacturers' instructions and all pesticides would be EPA-registered and approved for use on the specific crops grown. Standard agricultural practices to minimize erosion and runoff of applied chemicals and soil would be employed. Depending on the crop, these would include tilling with the contour, avoiding major washes in the area, establishing a buffer area between tilled areas and drainages, and establishing tail water areas for irrigation water to be collected and infiltrated. Table 2-4 lists those pesticides, herbicides, or other chemicals that could be expected to be used, based on the type of crops anticipated to be grown on the designated agricultural area.

2.2.7 Project Construction

The following sections describe the construction activities that would be completed under the Proposed Action associated with the proposed power plant and substation, water supply system, proposed access road, and proposed natural gas supply pipeline. Table 2-5 summarizes the ground disturbance acreage for each of these areas and some associated facilities, plus the agricultural area. Each section below provides more detail about the activities that would occur within the acreages listed.

Equipment used for construction activities would include temporary power supply generators, dozers, backhoes, graders, trenchers, air compressors, light and heavy trucks, and cranes. Cranes would range in capacity from 20 tons to 225 tons. Heights would range from about 80 feet to 250 feet. All equipment would generate noise of varying levels and at different

times, but would be expected to average about 85 dBA at 50 feet.

2.2.7.1 Power Plant Construction

The proposed power plant and associated facilities would be constructed by a primary contractor that would perform the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) activities for the project. The EPC contractor would undertake final plant design, equipment procurement, and construction all under contract to Caithness.

The proposed site includes adequate area for construction parking, work trailers, storage, and lay-down areas. The primary access during construction would be from US 93 along the proposed access road.

As previously noted, the power plant is proposed to be constructed in two phases: Phase 1, consisting of a baseload 500 MW, natural gas-fired, combined-cycle generating facility and 500-kV substation; and Phase 2, consisting of a 220-MW single-shaft combined-cycle generator. The construction phasing for Phase 1 is expected to begin in during the third quarter of 2001 and be completed within 20 months, as follows:

Site Preparation, Access Road, and Water Supply System	Months 1 through 6
Foundations	Months 4 through 12
Building Erection	Months 8 through 12
Mechanical Installation	Months 10 through 14
Electrical Installation	Months 10 through 14
Gas Pipeline Construction	Months 8 through 14
Commissioning and Startup	Months 14 through 20