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**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: CO-120-2008-23-CX

PROJECT NAME: Sentinel Peak Amendment

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 11N., R. 79W., Section 28: SW¹/₄NE¹/₄

APPLICANT: Union Telephone Co.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Union Telephone Company proposes to add an outdoor 35 KW generator and a 1000 gallon propane tank at the Sentinel Peak Communication Site. The generator and the propane tank would be located within the 50' X 50' site. The propane tank would be located approximately 5 feet away from the outdoor generator. The generator would be used as back up power when the main power line is down. Construction would take one to two days during the spring of 2008.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: II-B-12 pg.14

Decision Language: Decision Language: Provide the opportunity to utilize public lands for development of facilities which benefit the public, while considering environmental and agency concerns.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11, Number: (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.*" None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness 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; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 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.		X
2.8 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.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal Law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 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).		X
2.12 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).		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Review Completed
Susan Cassel	Realty Specialist	Lands	3/5/08
Joe Stout	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Review/Compliance	3/5/08
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Air Water	3/05/08
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	T&E	2/19/08
Bill Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural	2/13/08
Frank G. Rupp	Archaeologist	Paleontology	1/28/08

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The action would be a routine maintenance and equipment upgrade at an existing site. The project is a no effect, no historic properties affected.

Native American Religious Concerns: Because this project is a routine maintenance and equipment upgrade to the original scope of work, tribal consultation is not necessary.

Threatened and Endangered Species: The Proposed Action would not affect any federally or state listed species, nor BLM sensitive species.

Paleontology: The proposed project area is geologically mapped Morrison and Dakota formation. These are classified as Class I, and defined as, "*Fossils of scientific significance are frequently found in the formation within the Craig district.*" A Paleontological Inventory was completed in 1995 for the original E.A. by the Kremmling geologist. No Paleontological resources were discovered or recorded. The project was recommended to proceed, and the current proposed modification is also recommended to proceed.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: The right-of-way would be inspected and monitored periodically to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant. The right-of-way would also be inspected after any maintenance activities to determine compliance with and effectiveness of reclamation measures.

NAME OF PREPARER: Susan Cassel

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Joe Stout

DATE: 3/5/08

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1). Project Map
- 2). Current ROW Stipulations

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CER and have decided to implement the proposed action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an extraordinary circumstance and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden (acting)

DATE SIGNED: 3/5/08