

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District
1103 North Fancher Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

A. Background

BLM Office: Border Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: WAOR 64148

NEPA Log Number: 135-09-CX-016

Proposed Action Title: Clipper WindPower Development Meteorological Tower Relocation and Addition

Location of Proposed Action: T.9 N., R.27 E. Sections 23 and 32.

Description of Proposed Action: Clipper Windpower Development Co. has applied to relocate the two previously authorized meteorological (met) towers and to install one addition met tower. Tower A will be moved 150 feet north of the approved location and Tower C is a new tower. There are three alternate locations for Tower B, all within 345 feet of the original location. The three alternate locations are shown depict as locations 2, 3b & 3c on the inset of the attached map. The fourth alternate location applied for by Clipper was dropped by the applicant. The applicant will be required to notify the authorized officer of the final location of Tower B within 30 days of the decision.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

Option 1 (conforms with LUP): 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 subject to the Spokane District Resource Management Plan (1985) and Record of Decision (1987), and the 1992 RMP amendment and Record of Decision (ROD). Issuance of rights-of-way grants is listed under the heading "Administrative Actions" on page 5 (unnumbered) of the 1992 ROD. On December 15, 2005, the BLM signed the Record of Decision for the "Final Programmatic EIS on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Adminstered Lands in the Western United States." This action effectively amended the Spokane RMP to allow consideration of wind energy projects on public lands in Spokane District.

OR

(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP) The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*):

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with

E(19):

Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation 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 43 CFR 46.215 apply, as shown in the following table:

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	YES	NO
(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

