



Bureau of Land Management

Anchorage Field Office
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**Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
Amendment of Right-of-Way (ROW) Grant**

Applicant: Chugach Electric Association
Case File No.: AA-008319
AK-040-06-DNA-003

Location:

SW¹/₄ SW¹/₄, Section 3, T. 12 N., R. 3 W., Seward Meridian

Prepared By:

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October 13, 2005

Administrative Determination (AD)
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office

A. BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office **Lease/Serial Case File No.:** AA-008319

Proposed Action Title/Type: Amendment to a FLPMA Electrical Line ROW Grant

Amendment to Transmission Line ROW grant AA-008319. Two small lines installed underground to allow for traffic lights due to the Abbott Loop Extension (ALE) project.

Location of Proposed Action:

SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, Section 3, T. 12 N., R. 3 W., Seward Meridian

Description of the Proposed Action

Chugach Electric has requested an amendment of their existing power line that runs north to south along the west side of the Campbell Tract Facility. These amendments will allow two (2) short lines to be buried east to west to allow for traffic lighting. This project is due to the ALE project which begins this winter and should be done by the end of 2007.

The amendment requests 20 feet in width to the section line, between sections 3 and 4, approximately eighty (80) feet in length. Construction will begin late this winter or early next year.

There is currently a thirty (30) foot Temporary Use Permit issued to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for basically the same type of construction. They will be building a road and re-building culverts. Their grant is in the same area, the western side of Campbell Tract, 5/8 of a mile long.

One of the requested lines is already buried underground, and the request is to deepen it another six (6) feet. This line will allow for traffic lighting at Lore Road.

The other small line will establish a traffic stop light north of 72nd Avenue. Both lines will run off established poles, however, this line will have to be dug.

The equipment used will be the smallest of dozers, and front end loaders, for trenching and backfilling to the original grade.

This area has already been disturbed and revegetated. Some scrubbing will be necessary.

Applicant (if any): Chugach Electric Association

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

The Proposed Action has been reviewed and is in compliance with the Southcentral Management Framework Plan (MFP), March 1980. Land Objective Number L-1 of the MFP states the BLM will “satisfy state and local government needs as well as public and/or private demonstrated needs for land as they arise”.

The Proposed Action is also part of the Generalized Land Use Plan of the 1974 Far North Bicentennial Park Master Development Plan, and the 1985 Revision, which identifies the project area as part of the plan.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action

The Department of Transportation (DOT) was issued a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) for use of the same area for road building and culvert replacement due to the ALE. The environmental document that was written for the ALE, AK-040-05-EA-009 addresses the same type of project in the same area and the analyses of the environment are the same for both projects.

Environmental analysis for the entire ALE project can be found within the ALE EA, January 2005, DOT Project number 56559, prepared by DOWL Engineers.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the current Proposed Action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current Proposed Action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?**

Yes, the same action has been analyzed and the site is specifically analyzed in the above two (2) documents. There has been no change to the area since the EA was written.

- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

The alternatives were first analyzed with the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) Environmental Assessment prepared by CH2MHILL for a waterline. The waterline alternative was chosen to be the Northern Route which is the route currently being taken by the ALE project. Since then, 2002, the AWWU project and the ALE project have become one. Both Proposed Actions are one project. There have been no changes in environmental concerns, interests, and resource values since the EA was written.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?

Yes, the existing analysis is still valid. No new information has come forward and the circumstances have not changed since the EA was written.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current Proposed Action?

Yes, the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing EA are appropriate for the current Proposed Action. There have been no changes to methodology practices since the EA was written.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current Proposed Action?

Yes, the direct and indirect impacts for this proposal are unchanged from the previous EA. The existing EA analyzes the entire 5/8 of a mile on the western edge of CTF which the current request is within.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

The cumulative impacts are unchanged for this project. There has been no new information regarding impacts since the EA was written.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current Proposed Action?

Yes, the public and various agencies that were involved met several times to discuss the ALE project which the current project is a part of. There are no changes that would require us to have public involvement and interagency review since the EA was written.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

Many interdisciplinary meetings were held when the AWWU project first started and continued through the ALE project. More analysis from the team came when we initiated the DOT TUP. No new cultural, subsistence, or T&E clearances are necessary since they were just analyzed in April of this year.

F. Mitigation Measures:

The mitigation measures are the same as those in the DOT EA Proposed Action. Nothing has changed since the EA was written that would make more mitigation measures necessary.

G. Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Robert L. Lloyd, Acting
Anchorage Field Manager

November 10, 2005
Date