



U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Anchorage Field Office
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Anchorage, Alaska 99507

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado.html>

Categorical Exclusion
Buried Telecommunications Line
Matanuska Telephone Association (MTA)
Case File Number: AA-87918
AK-010-08-CX-040



Location:
Seward Meridian, T. 17 N., R. 2 E., Section 23

Prepared By:
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Realty Specialist

June 12, 2008

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-010-08-CX-040

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA 087918

Proposed Action Title/Types: Install buried 100 pair copper wire telecommunications line.

Location of Proposed Action: Government Lots 1 and 6 of Township 17 North, Range 2 East, Section 23 (Southeast ¼). More commonly referred to as; five miles southeast of Palmer, Alaska in the City of Butte, northeast corner of the Old Glenn Highway's intersection with Plumley Road.

Description of Proposed Action: Buried Telecommunications Line

Matanuska Telephone Association proposes to install a communications line in conjunction with the State of Alaska: Department of Transportation's (ADOT) Old Glenn Highway Rehabilitation Project, Mile Point 11.5 – 18 (Project).

MTA's procedures for the placement of the communications line will consist of a three man crew from MTA's construction division and a crawler tractor equipped with a static plow. The crawler will cut through the soil with the static plow and lay the communications line in the ground directly behind the plow. The area disturbed by the plow will be no larger than a twelve (12) inch wide path with approximately an eight (8) foot wide path of disturbance by the crawler. After the crawler has laid the cable in the ground, the soil and vegetative matting will fall back in its previous location. A crew member will walk behind the crawler and realign any materials that do not fall back in place on the surface of the ground.

The communications line will lie approximately five (5) feet from the eastern boundary of Government Lots 1 and 6, more specifically shown on Attachment A. Three hundred (300) linear feet, more or less, of the communications line will be buried within the BLM managed lands in a 20' wide corridor that will encumber the outer 20 feet of lots 1 and 6. The proposed lease area resides completely within the ADOT right of way easement and has been requested by the ADOT to be approved and expedited for this project.

Applicant (if any): Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc.

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan

Date Plan Approved: March 21, 2008

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)).

Remarks: The plan's goal (I. Lands and Realty) includes the balance between land use (Right-of-Way, permits, leases and sales) and resource protection which best serves the public at large (I-1(2)). The plan accounts for and allows communications lines and other land uses when taking considerations noted in the Management Action section (I-2) of the approved resource management plan.

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.
 This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 at E(12):

E.12 *Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly develop rights-of-way.*

B. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review.
 The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	_____	_____ X
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
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	_____	_____ X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	_____ X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ X
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

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| 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. | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| 9. | Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| 10. | Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| 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). | _____ | <u> X </u> |
| 12. | Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112). | _____ | <u> X </u> |

I certify that none of the Departmental Extraordinary Circumstances listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks: This project is occurring in a previously disturbed and existing right of way. No areas outside the existing right of way will be impacted by this action; in addition, the standard stipulations identified in the resource management plan will prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the public lands. Thus, no further analysis is necessary.

Preparer(s): /s/ Date: 7/09/2008
Jayme Lopez – Realty Specialist

PART III – DECISION

The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 C.F.R. § 1610.8(a)(3) (2006). The Department of the Interior has determined and found that the proposed action is within a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and that neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required, 40 C.F.R. §1508.4 (2006).

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described, with appropriate mitigation measures or stipulations.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks: Standard Stipulations as noted in Attachment B and the applicable standard stipulations from the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan as described below.

Per **I-2n: Rights-of-Way** of the Record of Decision of the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan:

- Restoration, revegetation and curtailment of erosion along the right-of-way route;
- Compliance with air and water quality standards;
- Control or prevention of damage to the environment, public and private property and hazards to public health and safety;
- Protection of subsistence resources and the user's access to those resources.
- Protection of the natural resources associated with public lands.
- Utilization of right-of-ways in common with respect to engineering and technological compatibility will be promoted.
- Coordination with the State and Local governments, tribal entities and interested groups and individuals takes place to the fullest extent possible.

Authorized Official: /s/ Beth MacLean Date: 7/9/2008
Anchorage Field Manager