

Categorical Exclusion Documentation
Renewal of Right-of-Way Grant for Painted Rock Camp 12kV Power Line
AZA-036036/AZAR-021644
DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-2012-022-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: *Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO)*

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AZA-036036/AZAR-021644

Proposed Action Title/Type: Renewal of an existing right-of-way grant and corresponding conversion to a Title V grant.

Applicant: Arizona Public Service

Sub-project Code: LVRAA912AI27

Location of Proposed Action: Approximately 20 miles west-northwest of Gila Bend, Maricopa County, Arizona.

T. 4 S., R. 7 W., G&SRM, Arizona

Section 18, S½;

T. 4 S., R. 8 W., G&SRM, Arizona

Sections 13; E½SW, N½NE, SENE; and,

Section 24, NWNENW.

"Dendora" USGS 7.5' topographic map.

Description of Proposed Action: Renewal of the right-of-way grant for a 12kV distribution line, originally issued on December 21, 1959. This 40-foot wide ROW crosses BLM land for 2.285 miles, encompassing 11.079 acres. It provides power to facilities and operations in the area of Painted Rock Dam. This is an existing ROW, and renewal requires no new facilities, construction, or ground disturbance.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance:

Land Use Plan (RMP) Name: The Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP). Date Approved: September 14, 2012.

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2).

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable RMP because it is specifically provided for in the following RMP decision(s):

The proposed action is in conformance with the RMP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following RMP decision. Specifically, the Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Approved RMP, Chapter 2, page 77, under Lands and Realty Authorization LR-1.3.3 states: "Proposed minor linear and nonlinear Land Use Allocations (LUA) will continue to be authorized on an as needed, case-by-case basis in areas outside of LUA Avoidance and Exclusion areas."

C: Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1, Appendix 4 or 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 11.9, E (11): "Conversion of existing right-of-way grants to Title V grants or existing leases to FLPMA Section 302(b) leases where no new facilities or other changes are needed."

A categorical exclusion (CX) 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 H-1790-1, Appendix 5 or 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply.

D. Signature

Review: We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with CX criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects (see Attachment 1). Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.

Prepared by:

[Redacted Signature]

04/02/2013

Michael Rice
Project Manager

Reviewed by:

[Redacted Signature]

04/08/2013

Leah Baker
Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Approved by:

[Redacted Signature]

4/9/13

Dorothea Boothe, Acting
Field Manager, Lower Sonoran Field Office

E. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact: Michael Rice, Project Manager APS Team, by phone 623-580-5646, e-mail mrice@blm.gov, or the BLM Phoenix District Office address at 21605 N. 7th Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85027.

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.

F. Recommendation

Project Description: Renewal of the right-of-way grant for a 12kV distribution line, originally issued on December 21, 1959. This 40-foot wide ROW crosses BLM land for 2.285 miles, encompassing 11.079 acres. It provides power to facilities and operations in the area of Painted Rock Dam. This is an existing ROW, and renewal requires no new facilities, construction, or ground disturbance

Determination: Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendation in Attachment 1 (BLM Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances), I have determined the project is in conformance with the RMP and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. I concur with the proposed action provided the right-of-way includes all of the relevant stipulations now being included in new right-of-way grants.

Approved by:

[Redacted Signature]

Date:

4/9/13

Dorothea Boothe, Acting
Field Manager, Lower Sonoran Field Office

Attachment 1

BLI Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances¹

CRITERIA	<u>Comment (Y/N)</u>	<u>Staff Initial</u>
1. Have significant impacts on public health and safety?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study 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 (Executive Order 13186); and Other ecologically significant or critical areas?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>
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?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>
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>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>
9. 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>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>
10. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>
11. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>
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)?	<u>NO</u>	<u>MR</u>

¹ If an action has any of these impacts, you must conduct NEPA analysis.