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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0056 EA

PROJECT NAME: Kremmling Substation Buried Line

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 1 N., R. 80 W., Sec. 13, Lots 1 & 4

KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE, KREMMLING, COLORADO

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-73838

APPLICANT: Mountain Parks Electric, Inc.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: Mountain Parks Electric needs to install an alternate source of electricity to power the Troublesome Substation control building in order to eliminate a current safety hazard. Currently, there is no safe way to maintain electricity to the control building. By adding an underground secondary (120/230 volt) service to the control building, Mountain Parks can safely perform maintenance and also provide an alternate power supply to a very large bank of batteries that needs to retain its charge to prevent damage to the batteries.

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns: The substation is located on BLM land and is permitted along with a three-phase power line leaving the substation to the north and a single-phase primary line to the south of the substation.

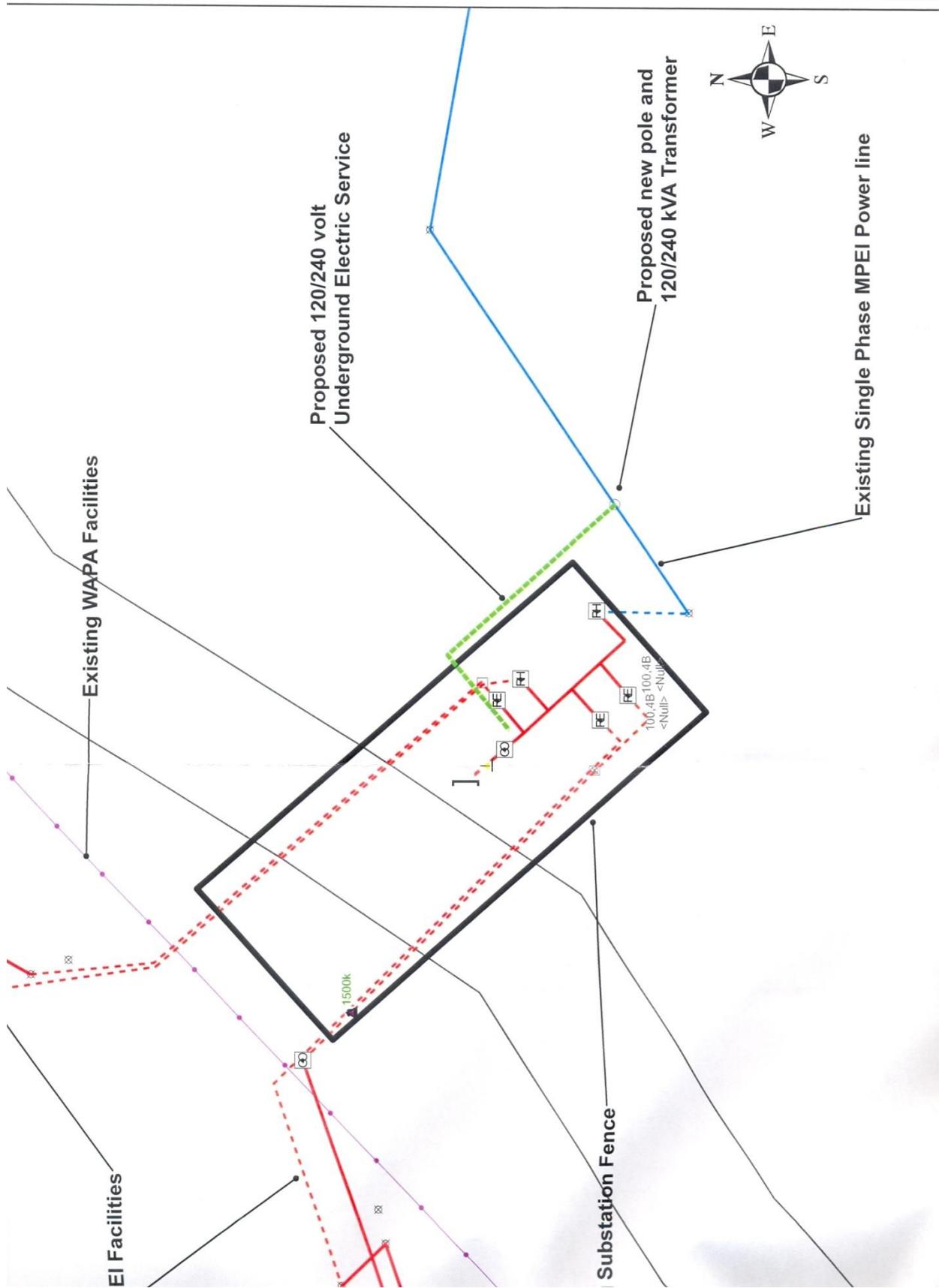
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action: Mountain Parks Electric is proposing to install one pole in line with the existing single phase power line south of the substation. Mountain Parks proposes to install a 15 kVA transformer on the new pole and then running 4/0 cable down the pole into 2.5 inch PVC for a distance of 110 feet underground along the outside of the southeast corner of the existing fence of the substation. The route will then turn 90 degrees into the substation and will terminate at the meters inside the substation. All of the cable would be in conduit and installed a minimum of 30 inches below the surface of the ground. The buried cable would remain within 15 feet of the substation fence where the route parallels the fence. The trench area outside the substation

would be reseeded when the construction is completed. The surface inside the substation consists of 1" rock and the rock would be restored after the trenching is complete.

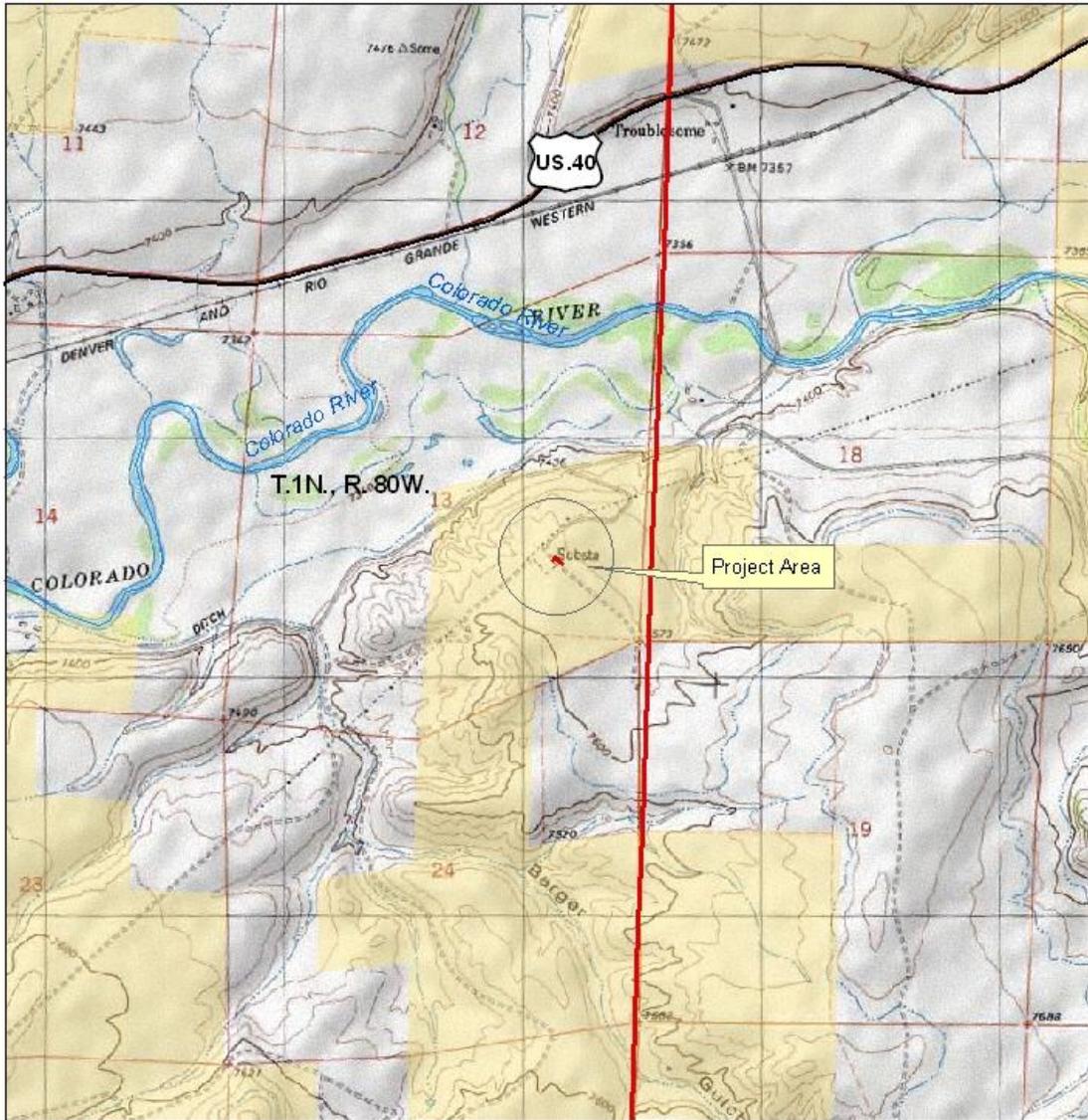
Design Features of the Proposed Action:

- Mountain Parks Electric would be responsible for the treatment of any invasive, non-native species that become established.
- If after one year the disturbed area has not revegetated, the area would require seeding with the equivalent of 12 lbs/acre PLS of western wheatgrass.

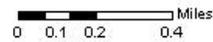




Mountain Parks Buried Line



1:24,000



Reference Map
NW Colorado



Legend

- County Roads
- Major Roads
- Reservoirs
- Major Streams
- Wilderness Study Area
- ACEC
- Bureau of Land Mgt
- Division of Wildlife
- National Park
- US Forest Service
- National Wildlife Refuge
- Private
- State
- State Forest

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NAME - DATE
FILE LOCATION

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would be to deny the proposal from Mountain Parks Electric for a buried line. The safety hazard for Mountain Parks Electric would continue and an alternate power supply to the batteries would not exist.

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

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

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

See Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record And Checklist

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: The geographic area impacted by this proposal is the Junction Butte area.

In regard to past action, the area has been heavily impacted by recreationists, especially hunters and electrical facilities. The area is transected by powerlines and transmission lines along with the substation. Many access roads for these facilities have been used by recreationists.

In regard to present and future impacts, the proposed action will not eliminate the negative impacts to soils and vegetation from new routes created by recreationists with all the existing access roads. The proposed action will not create a new access road and the new ground disturbance will be reseeded if necessary.

The No Action Alternative would not change the cumulative impacts.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: See Appendix 2 for Tribal List. No comments were received from the tribes (see Appendix 2). The proposed project was listed on the Kremmling Field Office internet NEPA register and NEPA public room board.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

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Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA.

RATIONALE: The Proposed Action, to authorize the construction of an electric pole and buried power line will allow Mountain Parks Electric to have an alternate source of electricity to power the Troublesome Substation control building in order to eliminate a current safety hazard.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

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

NAME OF PREPARER: Susan L. Cassel

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Peter McFadden

DATE: 8/28/09

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden

DATE SIGNED: 8/31/09

ATTACHMENTS:

1) Stipulations

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist
Appendix 2 – Native American Tribes

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Mountain Parks Buried substation line

Project Leader: Susan Cassel

Date Proposal Received: 6/12/09

Date Submitted for Comment:

Due Date for Comments:

Need for a field Exam: N/A

Scoping Needs/Interested or Affected Publics: None

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	8-26-09	9-11-09	B.Wyatt	The proposed action is a no effect, there are no historic properties that would be affected.
Native American	7-28-2009	8-29-2009	B. Wyatt	To date no Native American tribe has identified and area of traditional cultural concern.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	M. McGuire	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	7/21/09		PB	N/A

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name		Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
NI	Air Quality	Belcher	7/21/09	PB	The Proposed Action would involve little construction that would create a negligible amount of dust. This very short time period would not impact air quality.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Cassel	7/21/09	SC	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Cultural Resources	Wyatt	8/26/09	BBW	The proposed action is a no effect, there are no historic properties that would be affected.
NP	Environmental Justice	Cassel	8/28/09	SC	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.
NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique	Belcher	7/21/09	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Floodplains	Belcher	7/21/09	PB	The Proposed Action is located on an upland

					site and would not effect a floodplain.
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species	Johnson Torma Scott	7/23/2009	RJ	Mountain Parks Electric would be responsible for the treatment of any invasive, non-native species that become established.
NI	Migratory Birds	McGuire	8/18/09	MM	The Proposed Action would involve little construction that would create a negligible amount of habitat disturbance. In addition the project is located within a few feet of a substation where migratory birds are unlikely inhabitants.
NP	Native American Religious Concerns	Wyatt	8/26/2009	BBW	To date no Native American tribe has identified and area of traditional cultural concern.
NI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	McGuire	8/18/09	MM	No T/E species present. The Proposed Action would involve little construction that would create a negligible amount of sage-grouse habitat disturbance. In addition the project is located within a few feet of a substation where sage-grouse are unlikely inhabitants.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	Hodgson	8/10/09	KH	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
NI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5)	Belcher	7/29/09	PB	The Proposed Action is located in an upland area and involves a small surface disturbance. It is unlikely that the action would impact water quality.
NP	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	Belcher	7/21/09	PB	The Proposed Action is located in an upland area and would not impact any wetland or riparian zone.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Windsor	8/24/09	AW	There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness	Windsor	8/24/09	AW	There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS (A finding must be made for these elements)					
NI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1)	Belcher	7/29/09	PB	Soils in the area have been disturbed by the construction of the substation and associated activities and traffic. The trench represents a small soil disturbance on an upland flat bench. It will not measurably affect upland soil health or pose an erosion concern.
PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	Johnson Torma Scott	7/23/2009	RJ	See analysis in EA
NP	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	8/18/09	MM	No aquatic wildlife present in the project area.
NI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	8/18/09	MM	The Proposed Action would involve little construction that would create a negligible amount of habitat disturbance. In addition the project is located within a few feet of a substation where wildlife are unlikely inhabitants.
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
NI	Access/Transportation	Monkouski	8/27/2009	JJM	No impacts would occur from proposed action or no action alternative.
NP	Forest Management	K. Belcher	8/26/09	KB	No impacts

NI	Geology and Minerals	Hodgson	8/10/09	KH	No impacts.
NP	Fire	Wyatt	8/26/09	BBW	No effect.
NP	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher	7/21/09	PB	The Proposed Action does not impact the surface hydrology or any public or private water rights.
NI	Paleontology	Rupp	7/17/2009	FGR	Paleontological inventory completed by staff archaeologist.
NI	Noise	Monkouski	8/27/2009	JJM	There would be minimal impacts from noise during the construction period.
NI	Range Management	Johnson Torma Scott	7/23/2009	RJ	The Proposed Action would not impact livestock grazing on Allotment #07553 (Mayoffer)
NI	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Cassel	7/21/2009	SC	There are no leases or permits in the location of the proposed action. The substation is permitted under COC-12718 to Mountain Parks Electric and the 3 phase line to the north is permitted under COC-13113 to Mountain Parks. COD-051744 is permitted to WAPA for a transmission line. There would be no impact to these ROW's from the proposed action. The no action alternative could affect the Mountain Parks ROW's if there was a need for an alternate power supply and the batteries were not in working order.
NI	Recreation	Monkouski Windsor	8/24/09	AW	The proposed action is within the Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area. There is no significant recreation occurring in the area around the substation. There would be no impacts to recreation from the proposed action or the no action alternative.
NI	Socio-Economics	Cassel	7/21/2009	SC	There would be no socio-economic impacts.
NI	Visual Resources	Windsor	8/24/09	AW	The proposed action is within a Visual Resource Inventory Class III area. The only part of the project that would be visible after construction would be the new pole. The pole would be in line with the existing powerline. The new pole would repeat the existing lines in the surrounding landscape. The new pole would be visible, but it would not attract the attention of the casual viewer. There would be no impacts to visual resources from the proposed action or the no action alternative.
NI	Cumulative Impact Summary	Cassel	8/28/09	SC	See analysis
FINAL REVIEW					
	P&E Coordinator	McFadden			

Appendix 2

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES CONTACTED:

Ivan Posey, Chairman
Shoshone Business Council
Shoshone Tribe
P O Box 538
Ft. Washakie, WY 82514

Mr. Norman Tidzump
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Shoshone Tribe, Cultural Center
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ernest House, Sr., Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box JJ
Towaoc, CO 81334

Mr. Terry Knight, Sr., NAGPRA Representative
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box 468
Towaoc, CO 81334

Harvey Spoonhunter, Chairman
Northern Arapaho Business Council
P O Box 328
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

THPO Director
Northern Arapaho Tribe
P O Box 396
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ernest House, Jr., Executive Secretary
Colorado Commissioner of Indian Affairs
130 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203

Robert Goggles, NAGPRA Representative
Northern Arapaho Tribe
328 Seventeen Mile Road
Arapaho, WY 82510

Mathew Box, Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
P O Box 737
Ignacio, CO 81137

Neil Cloud, NAGPRA Representative
Southern Ute Tribe
Mail Stop #73
Ignacio, CO 81137

Curtis Cesspooch, Chairman
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business Committee
P O Box 190
Ft. Duchesne, UT 84026

Betsy Chapoose, Director
Cultural Rights & Protection Specialist
Uintah & Ouray Tribe
P O Box 190
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026

STIPULATIONS
FOR
Mountain Parks Electric
COC-73838
Substation Buried Line

Design features

1. Mountain Parks Electric would be responsible for the treatment of any invasive, non-native species that become established.
2. If after one year the disturbed area has not revegetated, the area would require seeding with the equivalent of 12 lbs/acre PLS of western wheatgrass.

Stipulations

3. The holder shall contact the authorized officer at least 5 days prior to the anticipated start of construction and/or any surface disturbing activities. The authorized officer may require and schedule a preconstruction conference with the holder prior to the holder's commencing construction and/or surface disturbing activities on the right-of-way.
4. The proposed power pole should include poles and cross arms constructed to specifications which would assure large birds such as eagles cannot be electrocuted (refer to "Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Powerlines," prepared by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee, 2006)
5. All poles and cross arms should be fitted with devices that prevent perching and electrocution. In addition, the USFWS recommends line markers for both the ground wires and guy wires to prevent collisions.
6. To protect Greater sage-grouse from avian predation, the proposed power distribution poles and cross arms should be constructed with structures which would prevent perching by large avian predators such as golden eagles.
7. The holder shall mulch disturbed areas designated by the authorized officer. The type of mulch shall meet one of the following requirements:
 - (a) Straw used for mulching shall be from oats, wheat, rye, or other approved grain crops, and free from noxious weeds or other objectionable material as determined by the authorized officer. Straw mulch shall be suitable for placing with mulch blower equipment.
 - (b) Hay shall be certified weed free. Hay shall be suitable for placing with mulch blower equipment.
 - (c) Wood cellulose fiber shall be natural or cooked wood cellulose fiber, shall disperse readily in water, and shall be nontoxic. The homogeneous slurry or mixture shall be capable

of application with power spray equipment. A colored dye that is non-injurious to plant growth may be used when specified. Wood cellulose fiber shall be packaged in new, labeled containers.

8. All equipment shall be washed for unwanted plant material prior to any construction activities on BLM lands. If invasive, non-native species do become established or spread, it would be the responsibility of Mountain Parks Electric to notify the BLM of their location.
9. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the construction, operation, and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.
10. Holder shall maintain the right-of-way in a safe, usable condition, as directed by the authorized officer.
11. No construction or routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of 4 inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support construction equipment.
12. Use of pesticides shall comply with the applicable Federal and state laws. Pesticides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides, the holder shall obtain from the authorized officer written approval of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of containers, and any other information deemed necessary by the authorized officer. Emergency use of pesticides shall be approved in writing by the authorized officer prior to such use.
13. The holder(s) shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the holder(s) shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.
14. The holder is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts.

The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any and all antiquities, or other objects of historic, paleontological, or scientific interest including but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins or artifacts DISCOVERED as a result of operations

under this authorization (16 U.S.C. 470.-3, 36 CFR 800.112). The holder shall immediately suspend all activities in the area of the object and shall leave such discoveries intact until written approval to proceed is obtained from the Authorized Officer. Approval to proceed will be based upon evaluation of the object(s). Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the Authorized Officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable (BLM Manual 8142.06E). When not practicable, the holder shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.

Within five working days the Authorized Officer will inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
- a timeframe for the Authorized Officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the Authorized Officer are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the Authorized Officer will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required.

Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation costs. The Authorized Officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the Authorized Officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest that are outside of the authorization boundaries but directly associated with the impacted resource will also be included in this evaluation and/or mitigation.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest, identified or unidentified, that are outside of the authorization and not associated with the resource within the authorization will also be protected. Impacts that occur to such resources, that are related to the authorizations activities, will be mitigated at the holder's cost.

15. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
16. If paleontological materials (fossils) are discovered during right-of-way activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating the paleontological site.

17. Prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection will be held to agree to an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, or surface material, recontouring, topsoiling, or seeding. The authorized officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.