

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-200-2012-0043 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC-28601

PROJECT NAME: Archer-Story 345 kV Transmission Line

PLANNING UNIT: Unit 404 Wildcat Creek

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Morgan County, Colorado, Sixth Principal Meridian
T. 6 N., R. 58 W., Sec. 26: NE¼SE¼.

APPLICANT: Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assn.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: On May 9, 1980, the above-named applicant was granted a right-of-way pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976. The grant is for the Archer-Story 345-kV transmission line which is 1604.35 feet in length and 180 feet wide for 6.63 acres.

On February 23, 2012, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assn. made application to renew the grant. Per regulations at 43 CFR 2803.6-5, a renewal may be authorized so long as the facility is still being utilized for the purposes originally authorized and is being maintained in accordance with the provisions of the grant. It has been determined by a field inspection conducted on March 6, 2012, that the holder is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant and that the facility is still being used for the purposes originally authorized.

It is recommended that the grant be renewed for a 30-year term with an effective date of May 9, 2010. The grant will be subject to the standard terms and conditions for rights-of-way. Per a conversation with Germaine French on December 3, 2014, rental should be assessed.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: Northeast Resource Management Plan

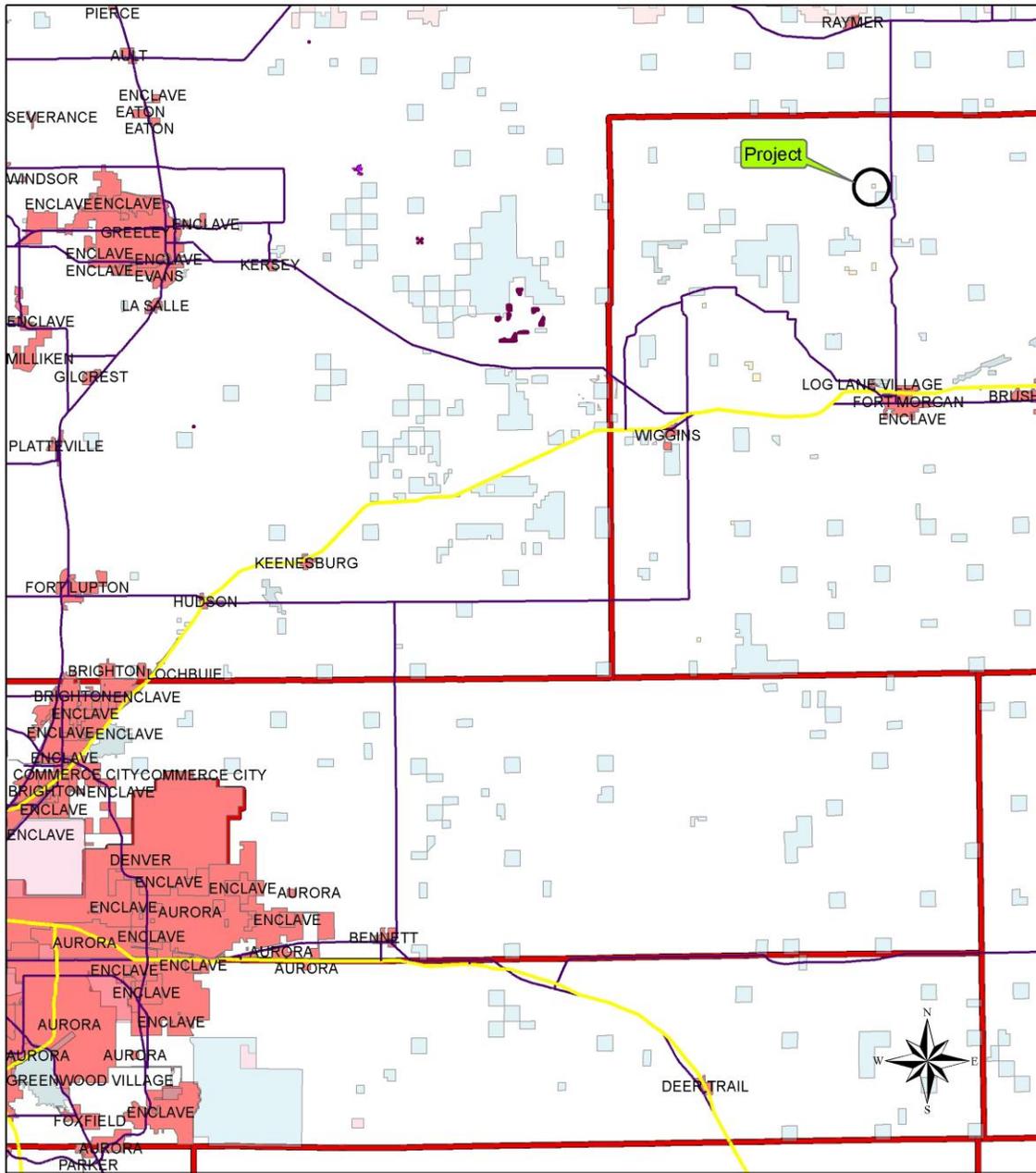
Date Approved: September 1986

Decision Number: Issue 25

Decision Language: Applications for various authorized uses will be processed on an individual basis.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11 E(9). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	_____	_____ <u>X</u> _____
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	_____	_____ <u>X</u> _____
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	_____	_____ <u>X</u> _____
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	_____ <u>X</u> _____
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ <u>X</u> _____
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ <u>X</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>X</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>X</u> _____
9. Violate a 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.	_____	_____ <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.	_____	_____ <u>X</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.	_____	_____ <u>X</u> _____

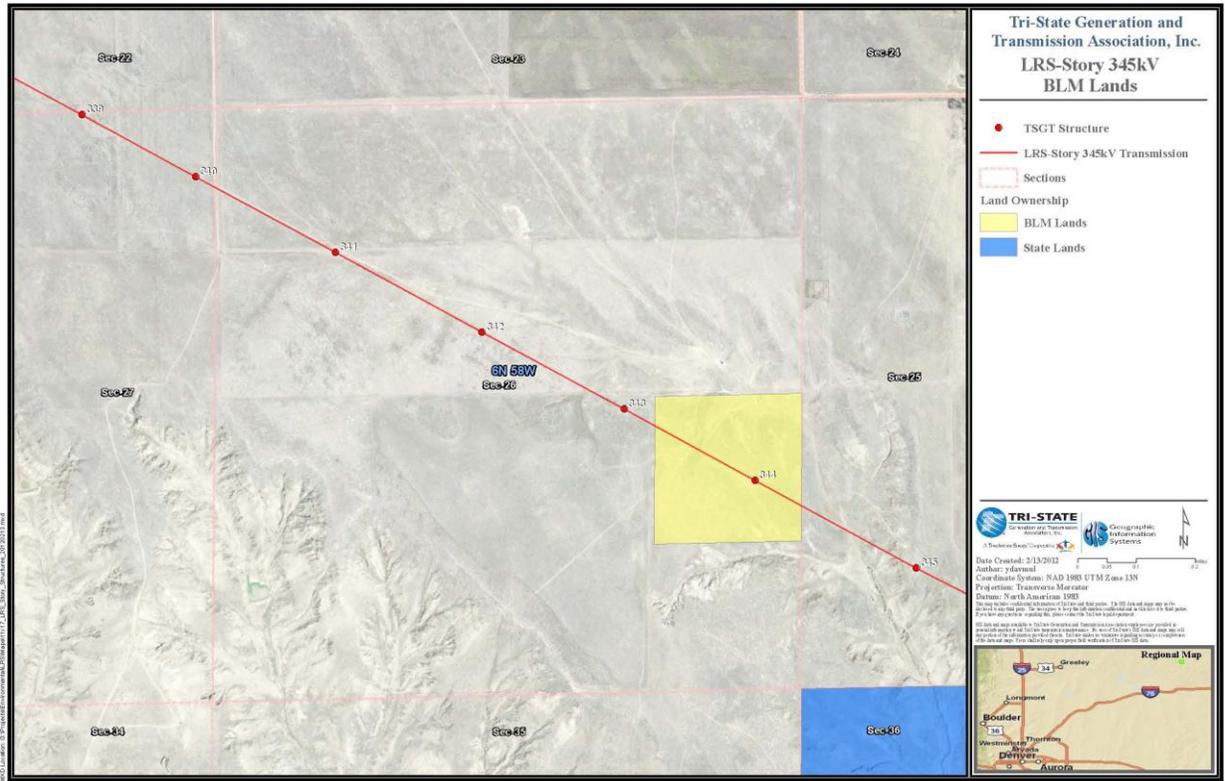


Archer-Story 345kV Transmission Line

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NOTE TO MAP USERS
 No warrantee is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.



INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 4/4/2012
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland, Weeds	JL, 04/04/2012
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 4/20/2012
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	SSC, 4/24/12
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	-----
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 4/4/12
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	TW, 4/4/12
Tony Mule ⁷	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	AM, 4/24/12
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	KL, 4/5/2012
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 4/3/2012
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice,	mw, 4/4/12

		Noise, SocioEconomics	
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 9/10/13
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Debbie Bellew	Realty Specialist	Realty	DB, 3/22/2012
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	-----

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Cultural resources were found within the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG-12-131 (P)], a prehistoric site (5MR.968) and a prehistoric isolate (5MR.969). The prehistoric site has been determined to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. However, if the proponent follows a stipulation attached to the grant, the site will not be adversely affected by the proposed activities.

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Cadastral Survey: The existing ROW plat on file appears to be sufficient for renewal purposes.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The continuation of the right-of-way grant will not result in impacts to TES species.

Wastes, Hazardous or Solid: It is assumed that conditions associated with the proposed project site are currently clean and that no contamination is evident. No hazardous material, as defined by 42 U.S.C. 9601 (which includes materials regulated under CERCLA, RCRA and the Atomic Energy Act, but does not include petroleum or natural gas), will be used, produced, transported or stored during the timeframe of the grant. During maintenance or other similar type of activity, this use may involve some type of oil or fuel use, transfer and/or storage. Therefore, an adequate spill kit is required to be onsite. The project proponent will be responsible for adhering to all applicable local, State and Federal regulations in the event of a spill, which includes following the proper notification procedures in BLM's Spill Contingency Plan.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional): As stipulated in the right-of-way grant

NAME OF PREPARER: Debbie Bellew

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: /s/ Jay M. Raiford

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 12/3/14

