

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2015-0002-CX

November, 2014

Molas Substation Amendment

Location: New Mexico Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 40 N., R. 7 W.,
Sec. 7, SW1/4NW1/4.

The area describes contains .02 acres

Applicant/Address: Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 336695
Denver, CO 80233-0695

Tres Rios Field Office
29211 Hwy 184
Dolores, CO 81323
970-882-7296
970-882-6841



DECISION RECORD
Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2015-0002-CX

Molas Substation Amendment

Proposed action: The proposal is to amend the Molas substation, which is a part of the existing 115 kV transmission line, owned and operated by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., authorized under COC-48573. Tri-State acquired the substation as part of the grant assignment from San Miguel Power Association to Tri-State in 2013. The existing fence around the substation does not meet National Electric Safety Code Standards (NESC) for safe clearances. Tri-State is proposing to extend the existing fence by 8 feet on 3 sides. 4-6 feet of gravel would also need to be added outside of the new fence.

Authorities: The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E. Realty, 13, which states: "Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary."

Compliance and Monitoring: Compliance reviews will be performed during construction and at regular intervals (usually in five to ten year increments). This will be done to ensure associated rights-of-way conditions, standards and stipulations are being met, and all maintenance is being performed on a regular basis as per the lease term requirements.

Terms / Conditions / Stipulations: The Molas Substation is part of the 115 kV Transmission line owned and operated by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., authorized under COC-48573. ROW Stipulations for COC-48573 will be applied to the amendment of the Molas substation.

PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY:

The proposed action and alternatives have been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM Land Use Plans and the associated decision(s):

Name of Plan: San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan (RMP)

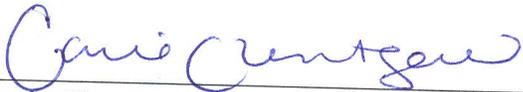
Date Approved: September 1985

The proposed action is in conformance with the referenced Land Use Plan (LUP), even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): Record of Decision for San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan, Page 20, states: "In general, public land is available for utility and transportation corridor development, however, applicants will be encouraged to locate new facilities within existing corridors to the greatest extent possible."

Rationale for Decision: I have evaluated the action relative to the twelve extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 and have determined that none apply and the proposed action is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

Protest/Appeal Language: This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer Connie Clementson, Tres Rios Field Office Manager, and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4.

Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at the Tres Rios Field Office, 29211 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.



Connie Clementson
Tres Rios Field Office Manager

11.14.14

Date

Attachments: Map, fence diagram