

APPENDIX F

PRELIMINARY FIRE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION PLAN

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This appendix presents a preliminary outline of the Fire Prevention and Response Plan that will be further developed in the Construction, Operation and Maintenance (COM) Plan for the Falcon to Gonder project. The purpose of this plan is to outline responsibilities, notification procedures, fire prevention measures, activity-related precautions, fire prevention and suppression equipment, post-fire rehabilitation strategies, and fire suppression contacts related to fire prevention and suppression needs of the proposed project. The goal is to minimize the risk of project-related fires and, in case of fire, provide for immediate suppression within the construction area.

Fire Management Regulations

This project would be subject to state, county, and federally-enforced laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations which pertain to prevention and suppression of fire activities.

Plans Related to the Fire Prevention and Suppression Plan

Blasting Plan: SPPC anticipates that blasting activities will be required for excavation of the 345 kV power line tower holes. A Blasting Plan will be prepared and will address the applicable regulations and environmental mitigation measures to minimize the risks and impacts associated with the storage and use of explosive materials during construction activities.

Responsibilities

Bureau of Land Management

- The BLM Authorized Officer will be responsible for all fire control activities in his/her administrative unit. The Authorized Officer will discuss fire protection stipulations with SPPC's Project Representative concerning action to be taken and will notify the Project Representative when fire conditions warrant implementation of changes in fire plans.
- The BLM Authorized Officer will designate a Compliance Inspector as his/her on-site representative.

SPPC

SPPC should define minimum fire protection requirements, including training for fighting fires, for all construction contractors. SPPC would be responsible for any fires started by their employees and/or contractors in or out of the project area during construction of the proposed transmission line. SPPC would reimburse government agencies for suppression and rehabilitation costs related to these fires. SPPC would be responsible for and implement the following action plan commensurate to the extent needed.

- Initiate and implement all fire control activities on the project until relieved by the BLM Compliance Inspector.
- Comply with state, county, federal laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations which pertain to prevention and suppression of fire activities.
- SPPC's Project Representative would accompany the BLM Compliance Inspector on fire inspections and take corrective action when notified that fire protection requirements are not in compliance.
- Notify contractor to stop all construction activities or to reduce operations, which pose a fire hazard until appropriate safeguards are taken.

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- Immediately alert the available project crews when a fire occurs within the project area. The project tools, equipment, and manpower would be sent immediately to control the fire.

Construction Contractor's Designated Fire Marshall

As required in SPPC's construction contract, the Contractor's designated Fire Marshall would be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

- Conduct regular inspections of all tools and equipment and first aid kits for completeness and compliance with the requirements of this plan.
- Conduct regular inspections of storage and handling of flammable fuels to confirm compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Post smoking and fire rules at centrally visible locations.
- Coordinate initial response to fires within the project areas.
- Accompany the BLM Compliance Inspector or the designated representative on fire inspections of the project areas.
- Keep the BLM Compliance Inspector informed of all burning activities.
- Ensure that all SPPC and contract employees are aware of the contents of the Fire Hazard Protection Plan.
- Remain on duty in the immediate area of construction whenever any construction activity is in progress and any additional periods where fire safety is an issue.
- Report all wildfires in accordance with the Notification procedures described below.
- Assume supervision of fire suppression activities until relieved by the BLM Compliance Inspector or other federal, state, or county fire suppression agencies.

Notification

SPPC's Project Representative or General Foreman would immediately notify the BLM Compliance Inspector and the BLM's Battle Mountain, Elko, or Ely Fire Management Officers (see following List of Fire Suppression Contacts) of any project-related fire during construction, operation, or maintenance activities, its location, and the corrective action taken. Following verbal notification, Project Representative would provide written documentation.

Fire Prevention Measures

The following fire prevention measures would be implemented at all times during construction and operation of the proposed project.

- No smoking while operating equipment or while walking or working in areas with vegetation.
- Smoke only in cleared areas.
- Completely extinguish all burning tobacco and matches and discard them in ash trays, not on the ground.
- Do not allow any fires without a burning permit (regardless of the season).
- Ensure that all fires are completely extinguished and cover ash with mineral soil before leaving area unattended.
- Take additional safeguards when fire danger is high.
- Train all personnel in emergency response for fire events.

- Clear away all flammable material (for a minimum of ten feet), including snags from areas of operation where a spark, fire, or flame could be generated.
- Do not allow lunch or warming fires or barbecue grills.

Federally-enforced fire restrictions would also be followed.

Activity-Related Precautions

Burning

SPPC and/or the contractor would obtain permits for burning activities regardless of the season or conditions. SPPC and/or the contractor would include in the permit application any special provisions pertinent to the particular job, including specific on-site fuels and weather data to the permitting authority to determine if the conditions are acceptable with the prescriptions. Special provisions would include activities such as ROW clearing and cleanup, including trash and debris. SPPC or the contractor would conduct and monitor all burning operations and their vehicles would be equipped with the fire suppression equipment. Burning permits would be suspended when special burning restrictions are imposed due to air quality or weather. SPPC or the contractor would notify the BLM Compliance Inspector prior to a burning event.

Blasting

No blasting would be performed without the notification of the contractor's Environmental Coordinator. Blasting operations would follow the requirements described in the Blasting Plan, which would be part of the COM Plan. Blasting activities would only be allowed in areas where vegetation is cleared a minimum of 10 feet around the blasting site. SPPC and contract vehicles at blasting sites would be equipped with the fire suppression equipment.

Welding

SPPC's Project Representative would approve any welding or cutting of power line structures or their component parts. Approved welding or cutting activities would only be performed in areas cleared of vegetation a minimum of 10 feet around the area. Welder vehicles would be equipped with the fire suppression equipment.

Spark Arresters

All internal combustion engines, stationary and mobile, would be equipped with approved spark arresters maintained in good working order. A BLM fire prevention officer would be fully authorized to inspect spark arresters on project equipment prior to its use. Light trucks and cars with factory-installed (type) mufflers, in good condition, may be used on roads cleared of all vegetation with no additional equipment required. Vehicles equipped with catalytic converters are potential fire hazards and would be parked on cleared areas.

Smoking

Smoking and fire rules would be conveyed to the contractor and all field personnel. Smoking would be prohibited during the fire season except in areas designated by BLM. Smoking would be prohibited while operating equipment or while walking or working in areas with vegetation.

Warning Devices

The use of torches, fuses, highway flares, or other devices with open flames would be prohibited. SPPC and all contractors would use only electric or battery-operated warning devices within the project area.

Parking and Vehicle Storage Areas

Equipment parking areas and small stationary engine sites would be cleared of all extraneous flammable materials. Gas and oil storage areas would be cleared of extraneous flammable material and "NO

SMOKING” signs would be posted throughout the area at all times. All used and discarded oil, oil filters, oily rags, or other waste would be disposed of in an approved sanitary landfill. Glass jugs or bottles would not be used as containers for gasoline or other flammable materials.

Equipment Refueling

All fuel trucks would have a 35-pound (minimum) fire extinguisher charged with necessary chemicals to control electrical and gas fires.

Signage

Smoking signs and fire rules would be posted and visible to all SPPC and contract employees during the fire season.

Access

SPPC would provide continuous access to all roads for emergency vehicles during construction.

Minimum Fire Prevention Equipment Required

The following list of fire prevention equipment would be maintained at all times during construction of the proposed transmission line:

- Power saws must be equipped with an approved spark arrester and accompanied by an approved fire extinguisher not less than eight ounces and a long handled, round point, size zero shovel (38 inches minimum). Spark arresters must be maintained in good working order.
- Radio and/or cellular phone communication to reach the closest fire suppression agency.
- Burning permits for all fires.

Minimum Fire Suppression Equipment Required

The following list of fire suppression equipment would be maintained at all times during construction of the proposed transmission line:

- Fire suppression personnel and equipment, including water tenders, would be dispatched within 15 minutes from the time that a fire is reported.
- Fire extinguishers on refueling-fuel service trucks charged with the necessary chemical to control electrical and gas fires with a minimum size 35 pounds capacity with 40 B.C. or higher rating.
- Backpumps filled with water (two at each wood cutting site, one at each welding site, and two at each tower installation or construction site, or any activity site at risk of igniting fires).
- All motorized vehicles and equipment would have one long-handled, round point, size zero shovel (38 inch minimum), one ax or Pulaski (three pounds minimum), and one dry chemical fire extinguisher, ABC rated (five pound minimum).
- Water tanker equipped with a minimum capacity of 500 gallons and:
 - One live hose reel or live hose basket with 250 feet of ¾-inch I.D., heavy duty rubber hose;
 - A portable or power takeoff pump with a discharge capacity of at least 20 gpm at 150 P.S.I. pressure with fuel (appropriately stored) to operate at least 2 hours;
 - Gear type pumps, which would be provided with a bypass or pressure relief valve; and

- The tanker unit, which would have a nozzle of the shutoff-type, adjustable for straight stream, spray or fog, and at least 12 feet of hard suction hose of the appropriate dimensions for drafting with an intake screen adapter and an additional 250 feet of 1-inch cotton jacket, rubber-lined hose.
- Seal tool caches with a hasp, painted red and labeled “For Fire Use Only,” containing at a minimum: one backpack pump type fire extinguisher filled with water; two axes or Pulaski fire tools; two Mcleod fire tools; a sufficient number of shovels so that each employee can be equipped to fight fire; and one serviceable powersaw of 31/2 or more horsepower with a cutting bar of at least 20 inches in length.

Post-Fire Rehabilitation Strategies

The purpose of the post-fire rehabilitation measures includes the following:

- Restoration of high quality wildlife habitat and various vegetation types.
- Restoration of range value.
- Suppression of invasive weeds.
- Prevention of increased fire hazard.
- Prevention of increased erosion.

The following post-fire rehabilitation measures would be implemented by SPPC:

- Reclamation of burn areas: all reclamation activities would require use of certified noxious weed-free seed. After a fire has been extinguished, the burn areas would be revegetated to the native vegetation using the appropriate seed mixtures. Because the proposed seed mixtures may vary, coordination with the BLM is necessary to determine the appropriate seed mixture for revegetation. For more details, refer to the *1999 Northern Nevada Fire Complex Burned Area Rehabilitation Plan* and Appendix E, Reclamation Plan of this EIS.
- Monitoring and control of noxious weeds: the following measures would be implemented by SPPC:
 - SPPC and the contractor’s off-road vehicles and ATV’s would be inspected and receive high pressure air or water washing on the undercarriage if necessary, with special emphasis on axles, frame, cross members, motor mounts, underneath the steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies.
 - SPPC and the contractor would clean off-road equipment (power or high-pressure cleaning) of all mud, dirt, and plant parts before moving into weed-free areas.
 - SPPC and the contractor’s employees working in the field would receive basic weed identification training.
 - SPPC would implement a Weed Monitoring and Abatement Plan as described in Appendix E, Reclamation Plan.

List of Fire Suppression Contacts

In case of a fire emergency in any area of the proposed project, first call 911.

Nevada Division of Forestry

State Forester Fire Warden: 775-687-4350
Fire Prevention Officer: 775-849-2500, ext. 227
Carson Valley Air Center: 775-687-4359

Ely BLM Field Office

Dispatch Office: 775-289-1925 or 775-289-8428

Battle Mountain BLM Field Office

Dispatch Office: 775-623-3444 (Fire Reporting)
BLM Field Office: 775-635-4000

Elko BLM Field Office

Dispatch Office: 775-748-4000

Bureau of Land Management

Fire Calls: 911
Interagency Dispatch Center: 775-883-5995 or
1-800-535-6076
Wildfire Reporting: 775-883-3535

U.S. Forest Service

Fire Calls: 775-883-3535