Categorical Exclusion (CX) Documentation Format When Using Categorical Exclusions Not Established by Statute

A. Backgound
BLM Office: Buffalo Field Office, WY 82834 Lease/Serial/Case File No.: WY-070-CX12-199
1425 Fort Street; 307.684.1100

Proposed Action Title/Type: Buffalo Hill Radio Facility Maintenance. Project consists of replacing and repairing the findings from the Radio Infrastructure Compliance Assessment Safety Heath Environment (RICASHE) inspection of the Buffalo Hill Radio Facility. This includes electrical grounding issues related to the site.

Location of Proposed Action: The Buffalo Hill Radio Transmission site is in the BLM Wyoming state operations jurisdiction, in the High Plains District Office territory, in the Buffalo Field Office area at: T51N, R81W S30. The surface owner of the ground at "Tisdale Divide" is the State of Wyoming as managed by the Department of Transportation, Cheyenne, point of contact: Chuck Kakalecik, 307.777.4065 or 307.631.8061. BLM owns the radio facility which it co-uses with Sheridan Media, WY, point of contact: Steve Sisson; 307.672.7421; broadcasting as KZWY on frequency 94.9 and KLQQ on frequency 104.9. The location is in the north-shoulder right-of-way of Interstate 90, adjacent to Exit 58, US Highway 16, and a housing development.

Description of Proposed Action: Project consists of replacing and repairing the findings from the RICASHE inspection of the Buffalo Hill Radio Facility. This includes grounding issues related to the site. See Proposal: Buffalo Hill Rev5 Final Scope, July 23, 2012, which BLM incorporates here by reference.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance
Land Use Plan Name: Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP), 1985, 2001, 2003, 2011.

The proposal conforms to the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions: Buffalo RMP 1985 Record of Decision:
Management objective: fire management: FM-1; FM-2; and FM-3:this proposal to maintain and update the radio transmission facility serving the BFO area enhances and provides additional safety and emergency response to BLM, and by extension, local fire officials working cooperatively with BLM, who are providing wild fire control services to the area.

Lands and Realty Management, LR-1: this proposal in the existing surface disturbance area abutting Interstate 90 and a housing development supports the objective of locating transmission facilities within transmission and transportation corridors.

Minerals Management, MM-5; and generally management objectives from other resources: this proposal supports the safe field work that may often occur in adverse weather conditions and in the dark during the winter months by fostering and improving communications from the field worker to the BFO base station, in part, by reducing emergency response time in the event of emergencies in the field. This proposal also assists with saving time for field and office personnel who may relay time-critical information and thus forego time-consuming hours-long travel to relay information face-to face, or even to acquire cellular telephone signals which provide scant coverage across the Powder River Basin.

C: Compliance with NEPA:
The proposal is categorically excluded from the levels of analysis required under an environmental impact statement or environmental analysis under the Council of Environmental Quality regulations, 40 CFR

1508.4; see also the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 516 DM 2, Appendix 1 (as denoted in the BLM NEPA HB H-1790-1 Appendix 3):
CX1.7: Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (i.e., limited to the existing surface disturbance); and,

in accordance with the BLM NEPA HB H-1790-1 Appendix 4:
CXJ3: Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation, and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.

CXJ8: Installation of minor devices to protect human life (e.g., grates across mines).

CXJ9: Construction of small protective enclosures, including those to protect reservoirs and springs and those to protect small study areas.

CXJ10: Removal of structures and materials of no historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.

Rationale.
This CX is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. BLM reviewed the proposal and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

The PRB FEIS analyzed and predicted that development similar to this could have significant impacts to the region's Greater Sage-Grouse (GSG) population. The impact of this development cumulatively contributes to the potential for local extirpation. Yet its effect is acceptable here because it is outside of priority habitats; and the proposal is within the parameters of the PRB FEIS and ROD and current BLM and Wyoming GSG conservation strategies.

The proposal area clearly lacks wilderness characteristics as the State of Wyoming owns the surface.

The work at the site consists of maintenance and repair of existing structures to comply with the RICASHE inspection. The replacement of old, noncompliant facilities, and grounding will assure appropriate facilities are in place in the same or virtually the same existing surface disturbance.

D: Signature
Authorizing Official: _____ Date: 8/7/12
Field Manager

Contact Person For additional information contact: Field Manager; 307.684-1100.