

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Twin Falls District  
Shoshone Field Office  
400 West F Street  
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

**NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2011-0041-CX**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-16937

Proposed Action Title/Type: Idaho Power IDI-16937, Shoshone Falls, Line 172

Location of Proposed Action:

Boise Meridian

T. 8 S., R 17 E.,  
sec. 13, NW ¼ NW ¼.

T. 9 S., R. 17 E.,  
sec. 14, SE ¼ NE ¼ and E ½ SE ¼;  
sec. 23, E ½ E ½ ;  
sec. 25, NW ¼ , NE ¼ SW ¼ , W ½ SE ¼, and SE ¼ SE ¼ ;  
sec. 36, lot 15.

T. 9 S., R. 18 E.,  
sec. 30, lot 1;  
sec. 31, lot 4.

For further location details please refer to Attachment A, right-of-way location map.

Description of Proposed Action:

The Shoshone Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received a right-of-way application from Idaho Power Company to renew and combine rights-of-way IDI-0-11477 and IDI-16937. The right-of-way grant identified as IDI-0-11477 is for a portion of the 46 kV power line known as Shoshone Falls to Jerome Junction. The grant was issued in 1960 for a term of 50 years and consists of a 16.05 acre corridor that is 3.31 miles long and 40 feet wide. The right-of-way grant IDI-16937 is for a portion of the 46 kV power line known as Shoshone Falls to Shoshone City #1, and lies adjacent to IDI-0-11477. This right-of-way was issued in 1981 for a term of 30 years and covered an area approximately 9.3 miles long by 50 feet wide. However, because part of this right-of-way was relinquished and another portion was included in a patent to the State of Idaho, right-of-way IDI-16937 currently consists of a 14.92 acre corridor that is approximately 2.46 miles long by 50 feet wide. The rights-of-way locations as currently identified are 20 feet (IDI-0-11477) and 25 feet (IDI-16937) either side of the centerline of the power line. These rights-of-way allow for Idaho Power Company to operate and maintain the power lines within the right-of-way, however, it is often unclear which right-of-way authorization to use for guiding management as the powerlines cross each other.

The proposed action would terminate right-of-way IDI-0-11477 and renew and amend right-of-way IDI-16937 so that both 46 kV power lines are authorized under one right-of-way grant. Combining the rights-of-way is intended to simplify the management of the rights-of-way by applying the same management across both powerlines. The combined right-of-way would include the area in-between the power lines and 25 feet on either side of the power lines. This would equate to a right-of-way corridor that is 3.31 miles long and 80 to 160 feet wide totaling approximately 47.8 acres. The width of the right-of-way will be 80 feet wide where the power-lines are adjacent to or on the border of lands not under BLM's management and would be 160 feet wide where both powerlines are fully on public lands.

The renewed right-of-way grant would incorporate new stipulations provide details on what actions are included in the authorization to maintain and operate these power lines on public lands. The addition of the new stipulations and the change in the width of the right-of-way, would not convey any additional rights and no changes to the maintenance and operation of the powerlines have been proposed. These changes in the renewed and amended grant would only clarify what rights are granted and simplify the area where these rights area authorized.

## **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

**Land Use Plan Name:** Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP)

**Date Approved/Amended:** 1986

The proposed action is not specifically provided for in the RMP; however it does fall within the concept of multiple use management. "For the Monument RMP, a variety of resource uses are allowed. Production and use of commodity resources and commercial use authorization would occur, while protecting fragile resources and habitat, preserving natural systems and cultural values, and allowing for non-consumptive resource uses." (Monument RMP, pg 5) "The public lands will be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield as required by FLPMA. Any valid occupancy, and development of the public lands, including but not limited to, those requiring rights-of-way, leases, licenses will be subject to applicable environmental review procedures,... BLM will include stipulations and special conditions as necessary in leases, licenses, and permits to ensure the protection and preservation of resources." (Monument RMP, pg 25)

## **C. Compliance with NEPA**

The proposed action is qualified under categorical exclusions 516 DM 11.9 E(9) "(r)enewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations" and 516 DM 11.9 E(13) "(a)mendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary." Anticipated effects of the proposed action have been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply (see Attachment B: Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet).

Based on my review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. I have decided to approve the action as proposed within Idaho Power Company's application to renew an amended right-of-way IDI-16937. A right-of-way will be offered to Idaho Power Company to operate and maintain the 2 existing 46 kV power transmission line as identified in the attached draft right-of-way grant (Attachment C).

**D. Signature**

Authorizing Official:     /s/ Jim Tharp     Date:     8/27/2012    

Name: Jim Tharp

Title: Acting Field Manager

**E. Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion, contact Kasey Prestwich, Realty Specialist, at (208) 732-7204 or at 400 West F Street, Shoshone, Idaho 83352

**F. Attachments**

Attachment A, IDI-16937, Shoshone Falls, Lin 172 ROW Location Map.

Attachment B, IDI-16937, Shoshone Falls, Line 172 Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet.

Attachment C, Draft IDI-16937, Shoshone Falls, Line 172 Right-of-Way Grant