

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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**Project Creator:** Erik Pignata

**Field Office:** Stillwater

**Lead Office:** Stillwater

**Case File/Project Number:** NVN 090409 (supersedes NVN 074671)

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion**

516 DM 11.5; Appendix 4 – 151, E. Realty, #9. “Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.”

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-NV-2012-C010-0022-CX

**Project Name:** Sierra Pacific Sand Springs Fiber Optic Renewal

**Project Description:**

Sierra Pacific has applied to renew their existing buried fiber optic cable that services their Sand Springs substation location with internal communication uses. The right-of-way length is approximately 10,493.8 feet long by 15 feet wide. It runs underneath the access road from Highway 50 south to the substation site.

Under current policy, fiber optic uses are for ten years. This will be a standard 10 year FLPMA renewal under current regulations and policy for their existing use. Moreover, policy dictates that renewal applications received after expiration need to be reserialized. Thus, this authorization has been changed to NVN 090409. Besides the serial number and the additional stipulation found below, nothing new is being authorized.

**Applicant Name:** Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy

**Project Location:** Sand Springs Substation

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 16 N., R. 32 E.,

sec. 9, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 16, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 21, NE¼NW¼.  
(within)

**BLM Acres for the Project Area: 3.61**

**Land Use Plan Conformance:**

**LND-7, #6:** “Exchanges and minor non-Bureau initiated realty proposals will be considered where analysis indicates they are beneficial to the public.”

**Name of Plan:** Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001)

**Cultural Needs:**

Under the State Protocol Agreement, finalized October 26, 2009, pg. 11, Part A. 2, states undertakings exempt from inventory and review are listed in Appendix C, Categorical Exemptions.

The action proposed in this document falls under Appendix C, pg. 38, #7 –

“Renewing existing rights-of-ways characterized by complete surface disturbance (roads, pipelines, power lines, communication sites, etc.) when no new surface disturbance is authorized.”

**Special Stipulations:**

The following special stipulation will be added to those found in the lease agreement –

a. The holder shall contact the BLM and obtain approval from the authorized officer before beginning any activity that is a substantial deviation from this grant or that will cause new surface disturbance.

**Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances:** The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria: (Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (Archeology, Recreation, Wilderness, Wildlife, Range by allotment, Water Quality)		<i>JW</i>
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (PEC)		<i>JW</i>
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		<i>JW</i>
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (PEC)		<i>JW</i>
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		<i>JW</i>
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (Archeology)		<i>JW</i>
8. Would the Proposed Action 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? (Wildlife)		<i>JW</i>
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (PEC and Archeology)		<i>JW</i>
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		<i>JW</i>
11. Would the Proposed Action 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 (EO 13007)? (Archeology)		<i>JW</i>
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		<i>JW</i>

**SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:**

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

- Planning Environmental Coordinator, Steve Kramer: *SMK 1/10/12*
- Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs:
- Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer:
- Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: *JW 1-9-12*
- Archeology, ~~Susan McCabe~~: *JASON WEIGHT* *JRW 1-9-12*
- Water Quality, Gabe Venegas:
- Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *CS 1/9/12*

**CONCLUSION:** Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

*Teresa J. Knutson*  
Teresa J. Knutson  
Field Manager  
Stillwater Field Office

*2/15/2012*  
(date)

# NVN 090409 SPPC Sand Springs Substation Fiber Optic Line

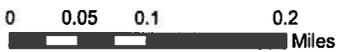


Exhibit A



MDM, T. 16 N., R. 32 E., secs. 9, 10, 16 and 21.

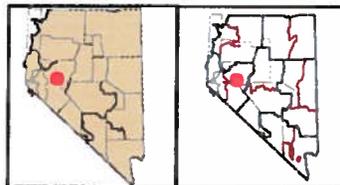


United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District Office  
5665 Morgan Mill Rd.  
Carson City, NV, 89701  
(775) 885-6000

Map Produced by: Erik Pignata  
12/14/2011ADD

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Legend	
	Fiber Optic Line
	Bureau of Land Management
	Water
	Private



# NVN 090409 SPPC Sand Springs Substation Fiber Optic Line



Exhibit B Overview

MDM, T. 16 N., R. 32 E., secs. 9, 10, 16 and 21.



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Legend	
	Fiber Optic Line
	Bureau of Land Management
	Water
	DOD
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