

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Creator: Ken Nelson, Realty Specialist

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number: NVN 089987 – Right-of-Way (ROW) Renewal (Previously serialized as NEV 054109 and NEV 054770)

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4: E: (9) - Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or **rights-of-way** and where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorization.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-2012-C020-0001-CX

Project Name: North Sun Valley Distribution Line

Project Description: A 24.9 kV power line ROW (NEV 054109) in north Sun Valley was granted to Sierra Pacific Power Co. (SP) on December 8, 1959, and expired on December 31, 2009. In addition, the power line that the subject line taps into expired on April 25, 2010 (NEV 054770). SP has now applied for renewal of both power lines. Since NEV 054770 is a short segment of line between private land in adjacent Sections 4 and 8, both power lines would be incorporated into one new ROW serialized as NVN 089987 (see maps). The application states that no new improvements would be required and also requests that the previously authorized rights-of-way widths of 100 ft. for both lines be reduced to 25 ft. The new right-of-way should be issued for a term of 30 years, subject to renewal upon expiration. The dimensions of the right-of-way are 5,631.00 ft. by 25 ft., encumbering 3.23 acres.

Applicant Name: Sierra Pacific Power Co.

Project Location(s): T. 20 N., R 20 E., Sec. 5, N½SW¼, SE¼SW¼, S½SE¼ (within).

BLM Acres for the Project Area: 3.23

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number): Page LND-7 states “non-bureau initiated realty proposals would be considered where analysis indicates they are beneficial to the public”.

Name of Plan: NV – Carson City CRMP.

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?		KN
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?		NC JC APC ASB
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]?		KN
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		KN
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?		KN
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		KN
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?		JC
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?		DT ASB
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		KN
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)?		KN
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)?		JC
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)?		DT

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:

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

Ken Nelson, Project Lead, Realty Specialist

Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Niki Cutler, Hydrologist

James Carter, Lead Archaeologist

Pilar Ziegler - Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife

Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants

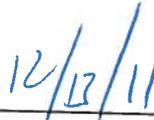
Brian Buttazoni - Planning & Environmental Coordinator

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:



Brian Hockett
Acting Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office



Date