

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

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Lead: Erik Pignata

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number: NVN 090155 (reserialization of NVN 021471)

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section):

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-C020-0033-CX

Project Name: Warm Springs Shooting Range Overhead Line Reserialization/Renewal

Project Description:

Right-of-way grant NVN 021471 for an overhead 24.9 kV power line with an east-west run of about ½ a mile expired on November 12, 2009. On August 17, 2011, the holder, SPPC, applied for a renewal of the existing authorization. Under current policy, we cannot use the same serial number for such an action; the case file has to be “re-serialized” if the application for renewal is received after expiration. However, this action is basically a renewal of the old authorization – the current facilities will be renewed under a new serial number, and the old case will be closed.

The overhead power line itself ties into another line (NVN 000243) near the Mullen Pass area about a quarter mile south of Pyramid Highway just as it rises out of Warm Springs Valley. The overhead line then travels west about a half a mile to private land where it continues in a westerly direction to a shooting range, also on private. The right-of-way is 2166 feet long by 25 feet wide, for a total acreage of approximately 1.24 acres. The disturbance of this right-of-way is considerably smaller, with minor disturbance around each wooden monopole that has been reclaimed by the existing habitat over the last 30 years.

There are a few user dirt roads crossing the linear feature, and one pole is set in old mining waste rock. Around the waste rock and fenced adit there is a collection of shooting and firework debris. Otherwise, the right-of-way is relatively undisturbed. This would be a standard 30 year FLPMA “renewal” for an existing authorization. The only thing that would change in this action

would be the serial number and the addition of current standard grant stipulations – as well as the special stipulation found below.

Applicant Name: Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPC) d/b/a NV Energy

Project Location (include Township/Range, County):

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 23 N., R. 21 E.,
sec. 17, N½SE¼.

The line is located in Washoe County, Nevada

BLM Acres for the Project Area: 1.24 acres

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number):

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: NV – Carson City RMP.

Special Stipulation:

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.

Quad: Fraser Flat, 1997

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? (project lead/P&EC)		ESP
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? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		MC PZ RC
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		ESP
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		ESP
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? (project lead/P&EC)		ESP
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		ESP
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? (archeologist)		RC
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 biologist, botanist)		BT PZ
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		ESP
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		ESP
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)? (archeologist)		RC
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)? (botanist)		BT

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW: During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Erik Pignata, Realty Specialist
Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Niki Cutler, Hydrologist
Rachel Crews, Archaeologist
Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife
Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants
Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Although BLM Sensitive Species is not described in one of the 12 extraordinary circumstances question, review of the applicability of this CX has taken them into consideration.

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:

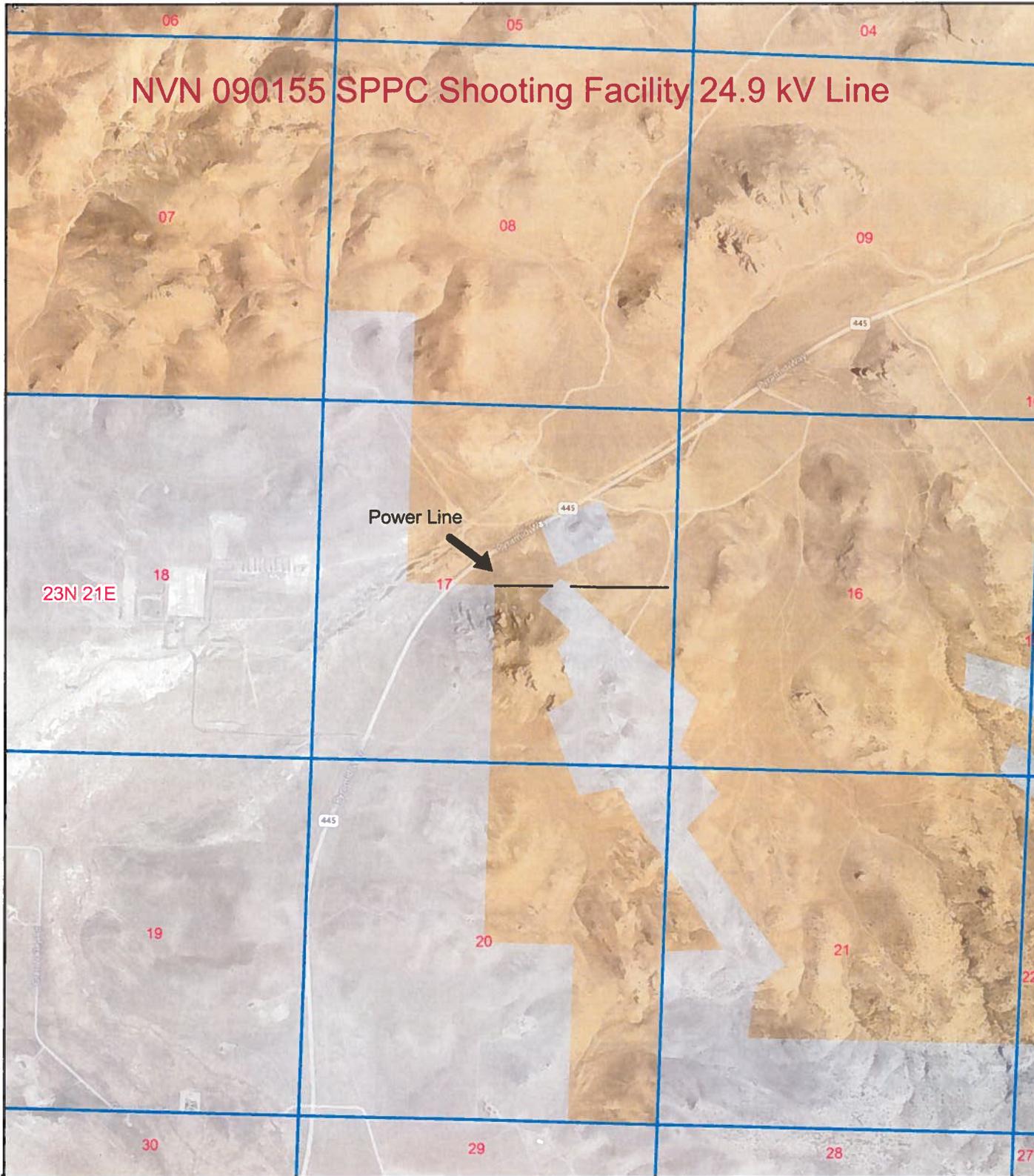
for

James W. Schuler

Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

4/26/2012
(Date)

NVN 090155 SPPC Shooting Facility 24.9 kV Line



Carson City District Office



Exhibit B



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
 03/21/2012

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

- Shooting_Range_Line2 Bureau of Land Management
- Shooting_Range_Line Private
- Section
- Water

