

Categorical Exclusion Review
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Boise District Office
Four Rivers Field Office

Idaho Power Langley Gulch Pipeline Geotechnical Sampling LUP

CE No.: DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2010-0020-CX

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-36659

Purpose and Need for Action: Idaho Power Company needs to conduct geotechnical sampling for their proposed water supply pipeline associated with the Langley Gulch Power Plant. This proposal will allow Idaho Power Company to dig seven (7) test pits along the proposed route to assess subsurface conditions. Excavations will be completed by a backhoe to a depth of 10 to 12 feet below the existing surface elevations and will be backfilled immediately following logging and sampling. The disturbed area will be dressed flat or to mirror the surrounding area. Additional dressing will be completed with hand tools if needed. Access to the public lands administered by BLM is via an existing road from interstate I-84. Access to each of the boring sites will be via an existing, maintained road. The excavations will be adjacent to this road.

Description of Proposed Action: This action is to authorize Land Use Permit IDI-36659 to Idaho Power Company for geotechnical sampling for their proposed water supply pipeline IDI-36333. This land use permit shall be issued subject to the applicable regulations at 43 CFR 2920, the standard land use permit stipulations, the standard District weed stipulation and the following special stipulations for 1 month. The land use permit will consist of 7 sites 40 feet by 40 feet.

Special Stipulations

1. No construction activities shall occur from March 15 to June 30 each year to protect nesting and brood-rearing of the Long-billed curlews.
2. Permittee shall rehabilitate the area to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer.

Project Location: T. 7 N., R. 4 W., section 29, NWNW, W2SW; section 30, NENE; section 32, SENW, NESE; and section 33, SENW.

Applicant (if any): Idaho Power Company

Part I – Plan Conformance Review

This proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Cascade Resource Management Plan

Date Plan Approved: July 1, 1988

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

Any valid use, occupancy, and development of the public lands, including but not limited to those requiring rights-of-way, leases, and licenses will be considered, subject to applicable environmental review procedures, unless specifically excluded in the plan. Authorization of land use permits for geotechnical sampling prior to final selection of a pipeline right-of-way route is standard practice. Further, since the subject area is not identified for avoidance for rights-of-way, issuance of the right-of-way this permit supports is also in compliance with the LUP.

Part II – NEPA Review

- A. Categorical Exclusion Review: This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 E. (19). Category description: Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.
- B. Exceptions Review (Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review): The following twelve exceptions which apply to individual actions within categorical exclusion have been reviewed. The proposal does not meet any of the exceptions; therefore, no environmental document (EA or EIS) must be prepared.

List of Exceptions

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Effie Schultsmeier 1/27/2010*

Comments/Explanation: There are always limited impacts on public health and safety with maintenance activities; however, these impacts are minimal and mitigated by adherence to proper maintenance techniques.

2. 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; or ecologically significant or critical areas, or is not in compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Effie Schultsmeier 1/27/2010*

Comments/Explanation: The above listed resources do not occur along the route of the proposed right-of-way where this geotechnical sampling will occur.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Effie Schultsmeier 1/27/2010*

Comments/Explanation: Land use permits to authorize geotechnical sampling along proposed rights-of-way are a typical use of the public lands.

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Effie Schultsmeier 1/27/2010*

Comments/Explanation: There are no known uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects and this action does not involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Effie Schultsmeier 1/27/2010*

Comments/Explanation: Authorization of land use permits for geotechnical sampling along proposed rights-of-way are a typical use of the public lands.

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

Yes No Specialist Signature/Date: *Effie Schultsmeier 1/27/2010*

Comments/Explanation: This action is to authorize a land use permit in association with a proposed right-of-way. It will not increase the impact of the proposed right-of-way and does not create significant environmental effects.

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Dean Shaw 2/8/2010</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Dean Shaw reviewed the report prepared by the Consultant for Idaho Power Company regarding cultural resources in the area of the proposed pipeline right-of-way and he determined no cultural resources will be impacted by issuance of this permit.		
8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date for Plants: <i>Mark Steiger 1/28/09</i> Specialist Signature/Date for Wildlife: <i>Helen Ulmschneider 2/1/2010</i> Specialist Signature/Date for Aquatics: <i>Allen Farter 02/08/2010</i>
Plants <i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Although this project lies within the Consideration Zone for LEPA, no known T&E or Bureau Sensitive plant species are expected to be impacted from this action. Idaho Power Company has conducted field surveys to ensure no occupied habitat or plants will be impacted by this action.		
Wildlife <i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This project lies within the Long-billed Curlew Nesting Habitat ACEC. Mitigation for this impact is to comply with the no construction activities between March 15 and June 30 as required by the Cascade RMP. There are no other known concerns for sensitive wildlife for this project.		
Aquatics <i>Comments/Explanation:</i> No negative effect to riparian resources or H2O quality would be anticipated.		
9. Violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Effie Schultsmeier 1/27/2010</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This action does not violate any known law or requirement.		
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Effie Schultsmeier 1/27/2010</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Low income and/or minority populations may live in the vicinity of this proposed land use permit. However, this project would not affect low income and/or minority populations any differently than other social and economic groups.		
11. 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 (Executive Order 13007).		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Effie Schultsmeier 1/27/2010</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Authorization of this land use permit will not limit access. Therefore, there is no impact.		
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive 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 Executive Order 13112).		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Lonnie Huter 1/28/10</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Inclusion of the standard District weed right-of-way stipulation will mitigate any concerns.		
I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions (Extraordinary Circumstances) listed in the above Part II (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action; therefore, this categorical exclusion is appropriate for this situation.		
Authorizing Official: /s/ Michael O'Donnell		Date: 2/10/2010
Name: Michael O'Donnell Title: Acting Four Rivers Field Manager		

Part III – Decision

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or with the stipulation(s) described above.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks:

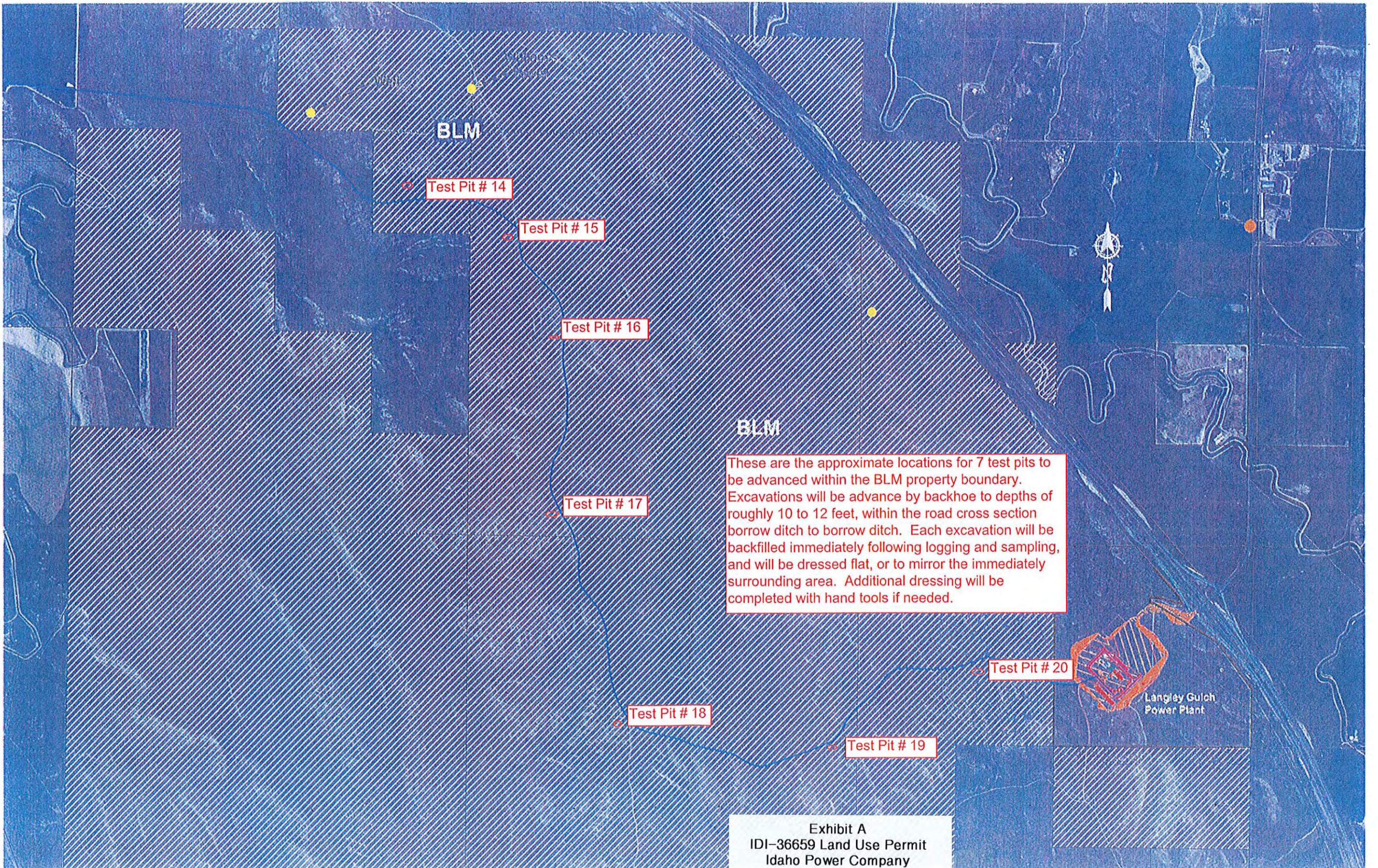
Remarks:

Authorizing Official: [/s/ Michael O'Donnell](#)

Date: 2/10/2010

Name: Michael O'Donnell

Title: Acting Four Rivers Field Manager



These are the approximate locations for 7 test pits to be advanced within the BLM property boundary. Excavations will be advanced by backhoe to depths of roughly 10 to 12 feet, within the road cross section borrow ditch to borrow ditch. Each excavation will be backfilled immediately following logging and sampling, and will be dressed flat, or to mirror the immediately surrounding area. Additional dressing will be completed with hand tools if needed.

Exhibit A
IDI-36659 Land Use Permit
Idaho Power Company

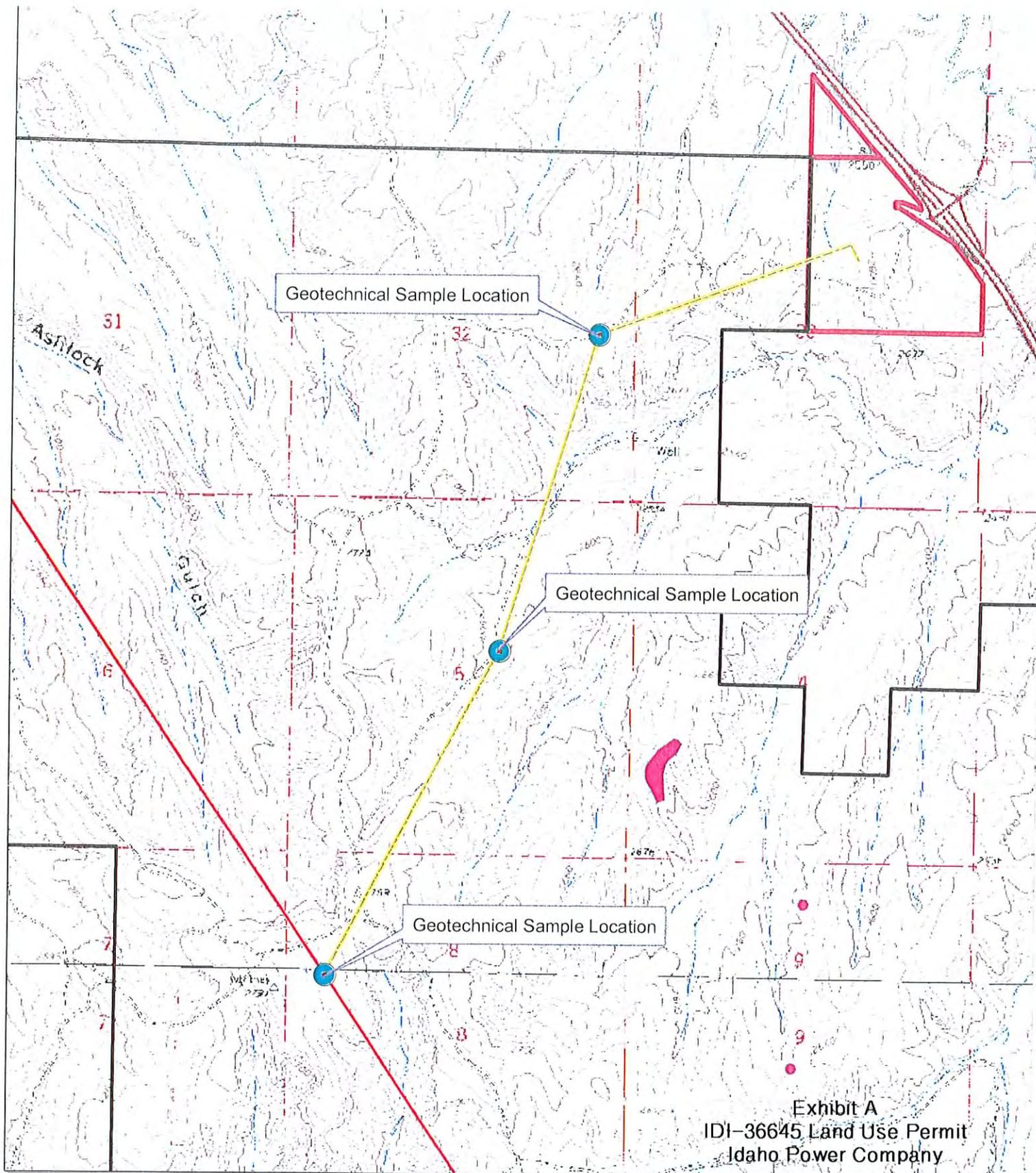


Exhibit A
 IDI-36645 Land Use Permit
 Idaho Power Company

Features Legend

- Existing 230kV Line
- Slickspot Peppergrass EO
- Proposed 230kv Line
- Slickspot Peppergrass Management Area
- Langley Gulch Power Plant Site



IDAHO POWER COMPANY, BOISE, ID 2009

Langley Gulch Power Plant
 Geotechnical Sample Locations

Figure 2

