

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

Jarbidge Field Office  
2536 Kimberly Road  
Twin Falls, ID 83301

**Decision Record**

**Northwest Cathodic Protection Site 1915**

**NEPA # DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-EA**

**IDI-36807 and IDI-36816**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Bureau of Land Management, Jarbidge Field Office (BLM) has conducted an environmental assessment (EA, No. DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-EA) to analyze the environmental effects and document the findings of an application submitted to the BLM by Northwest Pipeline GP (Northwest) to operate and maintain a cathodic protection site along an existing gas pipeline pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR 2800.

The environmental assessment (EA, No. DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-EA) also analyzed the environmental effects and documented the findings of an application submitted to the BLM Jarbidge Field Office by Idaho Power Company (IPC) to install and operate a power distribution line to supply power for the operation of the cathodic protection site pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR 2800.

The existing natural gas pipeline traverses several western states and runs from Ignacio, Colorado through Idaho to Sumas, Washington where it serves both residential and commercial customers. The cathodic protection site would help protect the steel pipe from corrosion and would ensure compliance with federal pipeline safety regulations with U.S. Department of Transportation. The cathodic protection site would be about 500 feet in length and about 20 feet wide totaling about 0.23 acres.

To supply power to the cathodic protection site an overhead distribution power line would be installed along the Magic Waters road. The new segment of power line would extend approximately 2,178 feet on public land with a 20 foot right-of-way totaling about 0.99 acres. The power line would be a single phase 7.5 kilovolt line, placed on seven wood structures and spaced about 300 feet apart.

The underlying need for the proposed action is for BLM to grant a right-of-way for the operation and maintenance of a cathodic protection site and to grant a right-of-way for the installation of a distribution power line to supply power to the cathodic protection site.

An EA (DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-EA) was prepared describing a proposed action and alternatives. This EA is available at the following website:

<http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/nepa.html> or at the Jarbidge Field Office, and is incorporated by reference for this Decision Record.

### **PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY:**

The Proposed Action and alternatives have been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the approved Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (1987). They conform to the Jarbidge RMP (II-76, 77), which states:

“Rights-of-ways, under Title V of FLPMA, will be considered in the Jarbidge Resource Area except where specifically identified in the RMP for avoidance.” The project area is not within an avoidance area.

### **DECISION:**

This decision represents my selection of the Proposed Action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR 2800. It is my decision to offer to Northwest Pipeline GP a right-of-way grant, IDI-36807, to install, operate, and maintain a cathodic protection site on public lands to help protect the steel pipeline from corrosive activity pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR 2800, as described in the Proposed Action of the EA (DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-EA). It is also my decision to offer to IPC a right-of-way grant, IDI-36816, to install, operate, and maintain a power line on public lands to supply power to the cathodic protection site pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR 2800, as described in the Proposed Action of the EA (DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-EA).

The cathodic protection site would consist of about 500 feet in length by 20 feet wide totaling about 0.23 acres. The power line would consist of a single phase 7.5 kilovolt line, approximately 2,178 feet in length and 20 foot wide totaling about 0.99 acres placed on 40 foot wood poles and spaced about 300 feet apart. The affected public land is identified as follows:

Boise Meridian,  
T. 8 S., R. 14 E., Section 30, SWSW  
T. 8 S., R. 13 E., Section 25, S2SE

### **RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION**

The decision to allow the proposed action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation and is in conformance with the Jarbidge RMP. The proposed action will allow for the BLM to work with Northwest to grant a right-of-way to help improve the reliability of the natural gas pipeline. The no action alternative was determined that it would not meet the purpose and need of the project as it will not allow for the installation of the cathodic protection site for the existing natural gas pipeline. Alternative A would allow for the cathodic protection to be constructed by a different method but due to a larger area of ground disturbance

this alternative was eliminated from detailed study.

The proposed project was entered and posted on the Idaho BLM internet within the NEPA project list in July 2012. A scoping letter from the BLM, dated September 17, 2012 stating that the BLM had received an application from Northwest and IPC to install a cathodic protection site along an existing natural gas pipeline and a power line on public land, was sent to interested parties. This scoping letter was sent to Twin Falls County Commissioners, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Twin Falls Highway District, Cities Service O&G, Todd Ring, IPC, and Northwest. An interdisciplinary checklist on the proposed action was routed internally at the BLM. Comments were discussed by the interdisciplinary team (IDT) and addressed through formulation of alternatives and environmental analysis. BLM Specialists reviewed and accepted the EA as specified in the Consultation and Coordination section of the EA. No public comments were received regarding the right-of-way application and EA.

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the authorized officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) issues a stay (*43 CFR 2801.10*). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the authorized officer at 2536 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203, within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the authorized officer.

To file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany a notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the authorized officer.

