

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

**Project Name/ Applicant:** Pacificorp, d/b/a Rocky Mountain Power 7.2/12.5kV power distribution line ROW Renewal

**Project/Case File Number:** IDI-010964

**Project Lead:** Heather Schlenker

**CE Number:** ID-I020-2012-0065-CX

**Date of Preparation:** July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### PROPOSED ACTION:

On August 20, 2009, Pacificorp, d/b/a Rocky Mountain Power submitted an application (SF-299) requesting a renewal of an existing right-of-way (ROW) authorization for a 7.2/12.5kV electric power line. The power line is located in Oneida County as described below:

Boise Meridian, Idaho

T. 14 S., R. 34 E.,

sec. 14, SE1/4SW1/4 and SW1/4SE1/4;

sec. 23, NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4, and W1/2SW1/4;

sec. 24, S1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, and W1/2SE1/4.

The power line ROW, serial number IDI-010964, is referred to as the Malad Repeater Station 7.2/12.5kV power line. The ROW line is approximately 2.26 miles in length, 40 feet in width, and encumbers 10.95 acres of public land. The portion of the line located in section 14 and in the NE ¼ and the NW¼NE¼ of section 23 is buried while the remaining line is overhead. The purpose of the line is to transmit power to the Malad Repeater Station.

The original ROW was issued February 19, 1960 , under the authority of the Act of March 4, 1911; 036 STAT 1253; 43 USC 961 for a period of 50 years expiring on February 18, 2010.

The proposed action is to issue a grant of right-of-way authorization to PacifiCorp for a period of approximately 30 years, expiring on December 21, 2039. The issuance of the grants of right-of-way is authorized under Public Law 94-579 (Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976) (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761), and the current regulations found at 43 CFR 2800. The conversion to a FLPMA ROW would require no on-the-ground disturbance and no changes to the line.

No additional rights would be granted beyond those of the original grant.

### CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION:

On July 15th, 2013, this project was brought before an Interdisciplinary Team consisting of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) specialists. A description of the proposed action was posted to the online NEPA register. This is available to members of the public through the Pocatello Field Office webpage. No comments were received and no issues/conflicts were identified for this project.

#### **FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION:**

The proposed action is categorically excluded as outlined in 516 DM 11.9 E (9) for renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorization. It is further excluded as outlined in 516 DM 11.9 E (11) for conversion of existing right-of-way- grants to Title V grants or existing leases to FLPMA Section 320 (b) where no new facilities or other changes are needed. None of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply.

Standard stipulations currently used for rights-of-ways would be incorporated into the grant to bring this authorization to current standards.

I recommend that the right-of-way authorization, IDI-010964 be converted to a FLPMA ROW and granted for approximately 30 years, expiring on December 31, 2039. The grant would be issued with the right to renew, subject to current terms and conditions and the attached stipulations (Exhibit B). The right-of-way would be granted under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761) and current Bureau regulations found at 43 CFR 2800. Rent will be collected in accordance with 43 CFR 2806.10.

#### **DECISION AND RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION:**

It is my decision to convert right-of-way IDI-010964, to a FLPMA ROW and issue a grant authorizing the continued use of an existing 7.2/12.5kV power line on public land to transmit power to the Malad Repeater Station, under the authority of Title V of Public Law 94-579 (Federal Land Policy and Management Act). The right-of-way encumbers approximately 10.95 acres. The grant would be issued for approximately 30 years, expiring on December 31, 2039, with the right to renew, subject to the current terms and conditions found at 43 CFR 2800 and the attached stipulations (see Exhibit B). Rent will be collected in accordance of 43 CFR 2806.10.

The conversion to a FLPMA ROW would require no on-the-ground disturbance and no changes to the line. The subject action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion and meets the criteria contained in 516 DM 2, 11.9 E (9) (11). None of the exceptions found in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply.

#### **LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE:**

The Pocatello Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved on July 10, 2012 has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms to the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Pocatello Field Office Resource Management Plan area. This right-of-way land is managed by the Pocatello Field Office. The controlling Land Use Plan for this public land is the Pocatello Resource Management Plan (RMP) (April, 2012) and was approved on July 10, 2012. The RMP states in part under **Action LR-6.1.6.** (pg. ARMP-84) that,

“For right-of-ways (ROW’s) which include energy and non-energy related ROW’s and Land Use Authorizations (LUA’s), 590,000 acres will be managed as Open Areas; 21,900 acres will be managed as Avoidance Areas and 1,900 acres will be managed as Exclusion Areas these areas are defined as follows:”

“Open Areas – These are areas not identified as avoidance or exclusion areas and are open to ROWs and land use authorization proposals.”

The ROW, IDI-010964 is located in an Open Area therefore, authorizations can be renewed for all types of Land Use Authorizations and Right-of-Ways.

**APPEALS INFORMATION:**

*43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) or 43 CFR 2801.10*

<u>/s/Heather Schlenker</u>	<u>7/29/2013</u>
Heather Schlenker	Date
Realty Specialist	

<u>/s/Blaine Newman</u>	<u>7/29/2013</u>
Blaine Newman	Date
NEPA Reviewer	

<u>/s/David A Pacioretty</u>	<u>7/29/2013</u>
David A. Pacioretty	Date
Pocatello Field Manager	

## Extraordinary Circumstances Requiring Preparation of an EA or EIS

(516 DM 2, Appendix 2)

The action described in categorical exclusion # ID- I020-2012-0065-CX (IDI-010964) has been reviewed to determine that none of the extraordinary circumstances listed below pertain to the proposed action.

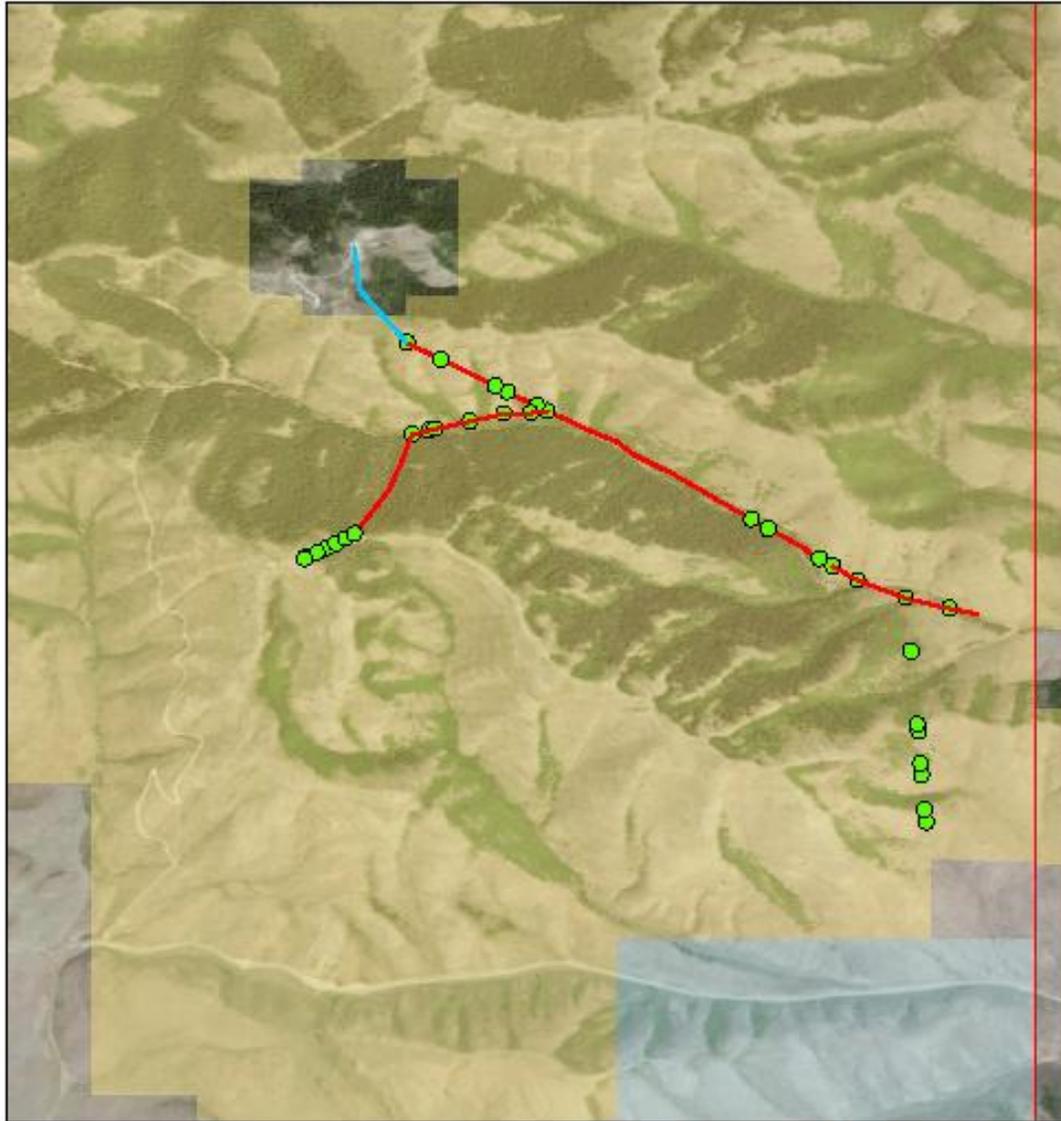
### DM#   Extraordinary Circumstance

- 2.1    Have significant impacts on public health or safety
- 2.2    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; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- 2.3    Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].
- 2.4    Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
- 2.5    Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
- 2.6    Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
- 2.7    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.
- 2.8    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.
- 2.9    Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
- 2.10    Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
- 2.11    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).
- 2.12    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).



# PacifiCorp IDI-10964 Power line Renewal

Exhibit A  
6-28-2013



## Legend

-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Private
-  State of Idaho
-  US Forest Service
-  buried electric line
-  overhead electric line
-  power poles (visible from aerial photo)

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
1910 East Baseline Road  
Helena, MT 59612  
406/441-4000  
www.blm.gov



## Stipulations- Exhibit B

IDI-010964

### Operation and Maintenance

1. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the construction, operation, and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.
2. No routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of 3 inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support construction equipment.
3. Right-of-way shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those sites shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. 'Waste' means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.
4. There is reserved to the Authorized Officer, the right to grant additional rights-of-way or permits for compatible use on, over, under, or adjacent to the land involved in this grant.
5. Ninety (90) days prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection will be held to agree to an acceptable termination (and rehabilitation) plan. This plan may include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, or surface material, recontouring, topsoiling, or seeding. The authorized officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.

### Weed Control

6. The holder shall be responsible for weed control within the limits of the right-of-way. The holder is responsible for consultation with the authorized officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods (within limits imposed in the grant stipulations).
7. Use of all pesticides (including fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, etc.) shall comply with the applicable Federal and State laws. Pesticides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides, the holder shall obtain from the authorized officer written approval of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of containers, and any other information deemed necessary by the authorized officer. Emergency use of pesticides shall be approved in writing by the authorized officer prior to such use.

8. During surface disturbing construction and maintenance activities, the holder shall ensure that all construction equipment and vehicles are cleaned of all vegetation (stems, leaves, seeds, and all other vegetative parts) prior to entering public lands in order to minimize the transport and spread of noxious weeds. During surface disturbing construction and maintenance activities, the holder shall ensure that all construction equipment and vehicles are cleaned of all vegetation (stems, leaves, seeds, and all other vegetative parts) prior to leaving public lands in areas that are known by the authorized officer of the BLM to be infested with noxious weeds.

## **Cadastral**

9. The holder shall protect all survey monuments found within the right-of-way. Survey monuments include, but are not limited to, General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Corners, reference corners, witness points, U.S. Coastal and Geodetic benchmarks and triangulation stations, military control monuments, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments. In the event of obliteration or disturbance of any of the above, the holder shall immediately report the incident, in writing, to the authorized officer and the respective installing authority if known. Where General Land Office or Bureau of Land Management right-of-way monuments or references are obliterated during operations, the holder shall secure the services of a registered land surveyor or a Bureau cadastral surveyor to restore the disturbed monuments and references using surveying procedures found in the Manual of Surveying Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands in the United States, latest edition. The holder shall record such survey in the appropriate county and send a copy to the authorized officer. If the Bureau cadastral surveyors or other Federal surveyors are used to restore the disturbed survey monument, the holder shall be responsible for the survey cost.

## **Cultural**

10. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.
11. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must immediately notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the holder must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer. The BLM Authorized Officer will determine avoidance, protection or mitigation measures in consultation with the Holder, Idaho SHPO, and affected Tribes. Costs

associated with the discovery, evaluation, protection or mitigation of the discovery shall be the responsibility of the holder.

12. The holder shall notify the Authorized Officer at least 90 days prior to any non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance in the right-of-way. The Authorized Officer will determine if a cultural resource inventory, treatment or mitigation is required for the activity. The holder will be responsible for the cost of inventory, avoidance, treatment or mitigation; including any maintenance-caused damage. The Authorized Officer will determine avoidance, treatment and mitigation measures that are necessary after consulting with the holder and under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

### **Environmental Protection**

13. The holder agrees to indemnify the United States against any liability arising from the release of any hazardous substance or hazardous waste (as these terms are defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq. or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.) on the right-of-way (unless the release or threatened release is wholly unrelated to the right-of-way holder's activity on the right-of-way.) This agreement applies without regard to whether a release is caused by the holder, its agent, or unrelated third parties.
14. The holder(s) shall comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations, existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated, with regard to any HazMat, as defined in this paragraph, that will be used, produced, transported or stored on or within the ROW or any of the ROW facilities, or used in the construction, operation, maintenance or termination of the ROW or any of its facilities. "Hazardous material" means any substance, pollutant or contaminant that is listed as hazardous under the CERCLA of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., and its regulations. The definition of hazardous substances under CERCLA includes any "hazardous waste" as defined in the RCRA of 1976, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq. and its regulations. The term hazardous materials also includes any nuclear or byproduct material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U. S. C. 2011 et seq. The term does not include petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof that is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance under CERCLA section 101(14), 42 U.S.C. 9601(14), nor does the term include natural gas.

### **Avian**

15. Unless otherwise agreed to by the authorized officer in writing, power lines shall be constructed in accordance to standards outlined by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC), 2012. Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: State of the Art in 2012. Edison Electric Institute, APLIC., Washington, D.C. (including future revisions or amendments, and current BLM policy). The holder shall assume the burden and expense of proving that pole designs not shown in the above publication are 'eagle safe.' Such proof shall be provided by a raptor

expert approved by the authorized officer. The BLM reserves the right to require modifications or additions to all power line structures placed on this right-of-way, should they be necessary to ensure the safety of large perching birds. Such modifications and/or additions shall be made by the holder without liability or expense to the United States.

## **Fire**

16. The utility will provide and maintain vegetation clearance for a distance of 4 feet in radius around the base of power poles/structures located on distribution lines within the bounds of the right-of way. This will mitigate most fires caused by birds and provide some protection to the poles themselves from being involved in wildfires which impact them.
17. Where monitoring or inspections have identified problem areas in relation to bird related fires, the utility will provide to the BLM a mitigation plan to decrease the risk of bird related fire ignitions. The utility will implement to the mitigation measures once the plan has been approved by the Authorized Officer.
18. The utility will adhere to all industry accepted construction, maintenance and accident reporting standards as identified the National Electrical Safety Code, Company Maintenance Inspection and Safety Standards and standards required by the Idaho Public Utility Commission.
19. The utility will provide BLM with a copy of its internal maintenance, inspection and safety standard operating procedures upon request.