

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

Twin Falls District  
Shoshone Field Office  
400 West F Street  
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

**NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2014-0009-CX**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-34074

Proposed Action Title/Type: MKR Communication Use Lease Amendment

Location of Proposed Action:

Boise Meridian, Idaho

T. 8 S., R. 22 E.,

sec. 5, lot 1 and 2.

(For further detail refer to Attachment A, Location Map)

**B. Proposed Action**

The Shoshone Field Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received an application from MKR, LLC on June 18, 2013 to amend an existing communication use lease within the Kimama Communications Site in Minidoka County, Idaho. The authorization of the proposed amendment would allow MKR, LLC to replace an existing 80 foot tower with a 120 foot tower in a modified location, extend the fence surrounding their facility, and relocate an existing propane tank and generator.

The existing communication facility was initially authorized in 2002 and constructed in 2003. Since that time the site has had additions in equipment, i.e. propane tank and generator. The proposed amendment would further modify the existing facility.

**C. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved: April 22, 1985

The proposed action is not specifically provided for in the RMP; however, it does fall within the concept of multiple use management. "For the Monument RMP, a variety of resource uses are allowed. Production and use of commodity resources and commercial use authorization would occur, while protecting fragile resources and habitat, preserving natural systems and cultural values, and allowing for non-consumptive resource uses."(Monument RMP, pg. 5) "The public lands would be managed under principles of multiple use and sustained yield as required by FLPMA. Any valid occupancy, and development of the public lands, including but not limited to, those requiring rights-of-way, leases, and licenses would be subject to applicable

environmental review procedures, ...BLM would include stipulations and special conditions necessary in leases, license, and permits to ensure the protection and preservation of resources.” (Monument RMP, pg. 25)

The Kimama Communication Site Plan was initially developed in 2003. A revision of the plan was approved on August 26, 2013. The plan provides an outline for the orderly development of the communication site in accordance with the RMP. The facility leased to MKR, LLC is specifically described within they Kimama Communication Site Plan and the proposed amendment is within the parameters set within the plan.

#### **D. Compliance with NEPA**

The proposed action is excluded from further documentation under NEPA in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 E (13) “(a)amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary.” The proposed changes to the communications facility would occur within the boundary of the Kimama Communication site and would not entail additional disturbance. Therefore, the proposed action qualifies to be processed as a categorical exclusion.

Based on my review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. I have decided to approve the action as proposed. A decision to approve the proposed amendment will be issued to MKR, LLC. MKR, LLC will continue to be required to operate and be held to guidelines identified within the existing Communication Site Lease and within the current Kimama Butte Communication Site Plan. The approved amendment will allow MRK, LLC to make the changes to the facility as provided for in Attachment C, Kamima Butte, IDI-37047 Compound Sketch.

#### **E. Signature**

Authorizing Official: \_\_\_\_/s/ Elizabeth Maclean\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_March 7, 2014\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Elizabeth Maclean  
Title: Field Manager

#### **F. Contact**

For additional information concerning this Categorical Exclusion, contact Kasey Prestwich, Realty Specialist, at 732-7204 or at 400 West F Street, Shoshone, Idaho 83352.

#### **G. Attachments**

Attachment A, IDI-34074 Location Map

Attachment B, Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet

Attachment C, IDI-37047 Compound Sketch