

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

PART I. – PROPOSED ACTION

BLM Office: Lower Sonoran Field Office

NEPA No.: AZ-P020-2014-0007

Case File No.: AZA-14656

Proposed Action Title/Type: Communications Line Right-of-Way Renewal

Applicant: Qwest Communications

Location of Proposed Action: T. 4 S., R. 2 E., Sections 19 and 20

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Qwest Corporation, is proposing to renew its existing right-of-way for its communications line. The right-of-way consists of a single buried copper cable. The existing line renewal request is for 4,277.51 feet in length by 10 feet in width (approximately 0.982 acres). The renewal request is for a 30-year term.

Part II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s): Lower Sonoran Record of Decision & Approved Resource Management Plan

Decisions and page nos.: LR-1.3 (Minor Linear and Nonlinear LUAs: Authorize minor linear and nonlinear LUAs in locations that minimize resource impacts, are compatible with multiple use objectives, and do not compromise the existing rights of current holders. (p. 2-72)

LR-1.3.3: Proposed minor linear and nonlinear LUAs will continue to be authorized on an an needed case-by-case basis in areas outside of LUA Avoidance and Exclusion areas. (p. 2-77)

Date plan approved/amended: 9/14/2012

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with these plans (*43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2*).

PART III. – NEPA COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION REVIEW

A. The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9

[E. 9. Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way wehre no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.];

And

B. Extraordinary Circumstances Review: In accordance with 43 CFR 46.215, any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine if it meets any of the 12 Extraordinary Circumstances described. If any circumstance applies to the action or project, and existing NEPA documentation does not adequately address it, then further NEPA analysis is required.

IMPORTANT: Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed in Part IV, comment and initial for concurrence. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included in the appropriate block.

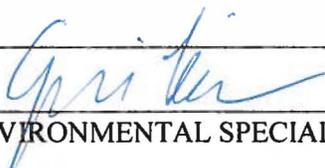
Part IV. – EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION

PREPARERS:

DATE:

Jo Ann Goodlow	4/14/2014
Cheryl Blanchard	5/9/2014
Andrea Felton	4/14/2014
Ronald Tipton	4/14/2014
Mary Skordinsky	4/14/2014
Thomas Buckauskas	4/14/2014

Gloria Tibbetts
 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST



DATE 6/19/14

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(l)) apply. The project would:

(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Yes	No	Rationale: There are no significant hazards associated with the proposed renewal. The communications line is existing, and will not pose any significant impacts on public health or safety.
	X	

Preparer's Initials JAG

(b) 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.

Yes	No	Rationale: No such unique geographic characteristics or natural resources are known to exist in the project area. The communications line is existing, and a previous cultural clearance revealed no cultural resources.
	X	

Preparer's Initials JAG

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

Yes	No	Rationale: No highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts are known or expected.
	X	

Preparer's Initials JAG

(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Yes	No	Rationale: The communications line is existing. The renewal of the right of way would not create any highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects, nor would it involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
	X	

Preparer's Initials JAG

<p>(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: The renewal action does not establish a precedent with potential significant environmental effects. The applicant is renewing its existing right of way grant, with no other modifications occurring.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>JAG</u></p>
<p>(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: No such cumulative impacts relationship exists with other actions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>JAG</u></p>
<p>(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: No such properties were found when the site was originally surveyed prior to construction.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>JAG</u></p>
<p>(h) 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.</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: No suitable habitat for threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat occurs at or near the project area.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>JAG</u></p>
<p>(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rationale: No such laws will be violated by renewing the existing right of way.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>JAG</u></p>
<p>(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).</p>		

Yes	No X	Rationale: No adverse effects will be imposed on low income or minority populations as a result of the right of way renewal.	Preparer's Initials <u>JAG</u>
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(k) 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	No X	Rationale: No such access limitations will occur as a result of the right of way renewal.	Preparer's Initials <u>JAG</u>
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(l) 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	No X	Rationale: The right of way renewal will not introduce or spread noxious weeds in to the project area.	Preparer's Initials <u>JAG</u>
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PART V. -COMPLIANCE REVIEW CONCLUSION

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.

MITIGATION MEASURES/OTHER REMARKS: All mitigating measures developed in the environmental assessment have been brought forward in the attached stipulations. No recommended measures were dropped.

APPROVING OFFICIAL:  DATE: 6/23/14
 TITLE: LSFO MANAGER

Note: The signed conclusion on this compliance record is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. A separate decision to implement the action should be prepared in accordance with program specific guidance.

Proj. # BLM-200-12-333
Case # AZA-14656
Date: September 12, 2014

COMMENT DOCUMENT WORKSHEET

I. Cheryl Blanchard , in review of the above-noted Proposed Action, have the following comments:

It is understood that Qwest has applied for a renewal for a right-of-way. Originally this right-of-way was for an above ground line on wooden poles. The current action is a request for an existing buried communication line. This right-of-way will cover operations and maintenance of this existing buried cable. The project is located near the area known as Enid. Legal location is T. 4 S., R. 2 E., Section 19 and 20.

A review of the cultural resources files revealed that a large historic cultural site lies in the area, along the railroad track and existing line. A pedestrian field inventory was performed along the existing right-of-way by Blanchard. The overhead poles from the original line, as well as the green metal Qwest cable splicing station were observed.

The cultural site, including features and artifacts were found to lie to the north of the railroad bed. The subject Qwest line lies well to the south of the railroad bed and an older abandoned railroad bed. No cultural features, sites, or artifacts were observed within or near the subject right-of-way.

Therefore, no impacts to any significant cultural resources are anticipated as a result of the operations and maintenance activities of this right-of-way renewal.

Recommendations:

- Clearance Not Recommended
- Unconditional Clearance Recommended
- Clearance Recommended with the Following Stipulations
 - Standard Stipulations

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 Bureau of Land Management authorized officer. The holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values.

Specialized Stipulation(s) as Follows:


Signature