

**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:** AZP020

**NEPA No.:** DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-  
2014-0018-CX

**Case File No.:** AZAR- 018248

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Telephone (AZAR-018248)

**Applicant:** Qwest Corporation

**Location of Proposed Action:** Arizona, Gila & Salt River Meridian T 4 S, R 7 W, sec 31, T 5 S, R 7 W, sec 05, 06 & 08, T 4 S, R 8 W, sec 13

**Description of Proposed Action:** The holder (Qwest Corporation) request permissions to renew and amend their existing telephone line.

The holder (Qwest Corporation) request permissions to RENEW and AMEND their R/W to correct location of buried cables located in:

-T4S,R7W,sec31 Latitude/Longitude 33.0344°N, 113.0199°W ( 33°, 2', 3.9" N; 113°, 1', 11.5" W )

-T4S,R8W,sec13 & sec24, Latitude/Longitude 33.0783°N, 113.0371°W ( 33°, 4', 41.8" N; 113°, 2', 13.5" W )

-T5S,R7W,sec5, sec6, Latitude/Longitude 33.0052°N, 113.0026°W ( 33°, 0', 18.7" N; 113°, 0', 9.4" W )

-T5S,R8W, sec1, Latitude/Longitude 45.4287°N, 112.5345°W ( 45°, 25', 43.4" N; 112°, 32', 4.1" W )

-T5S,R7W, Sec8, Latitude/Longitude 45.4142°N, 112.4933°W ( 45°, 24', 51.0" N; 112°, 29', 36.0" W )

ROW Consist of: buried copper cable, one (1) serving Area Terminal and two (2) 4"x4"x36 splice pedestal,

-10 feet wide by 20,807.19 feet long 4.777 acres, renewal is for 30 years, and amendment is to correct location of buried cables, all facilities are existing and is used year round.

The existing terms and conditions, which the holder is in conformance with would continue to apply.

**Part II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

**This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s):** The Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Approved RMP allows, (LR-1.3.3) propose minor linear and nonlinear LUAs will continue to be authorized on an as needed case-by-case basis in area outside of LUA Avoidance and Exclusion area.

**Decisions and page nos.:** Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, Page 2-77

**Date plan approved/amended:** September 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 BLM NEPA Handbook H1790-1 (E-9) Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations. ;**

**And**

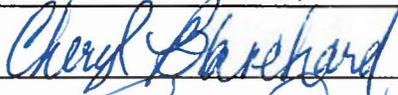
**B. Extraordinary Circumstances Review:** In accordance with **43 CFR 46.215**, any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine if it meets any of the 12 Extraordinary Circumstances described. If any circumstance applies to the action 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:

Ben Parsons		6/18/15
Andrea Felton		5/29/14
Cheryl Blanchard		6/18/15
Ron Tipton		06/04/14 <span style="font-size: small;">See ESA Att Docs</span>

  
 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

6/18/15  
 DATE

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(1)) apply. The project would:

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

Yes	No
	X

Rationale:

Preparer's Initials 

(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:

*ECT wilderness*

Preparer's Initials \_\_\_\_\_

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

Yes

No

Rationale:

Preparer's Initials *B*

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

Yes

No

Rationale:

Preparer's Initials *B*

(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Yes

No

Rationale:

Preparer's Initials *B*

(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

Yes

No

Rationale:

Preparer's Initials *B*

<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	Rationale:
	X	
		Preparer's Initials <u>CB</u>
<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	Rationale:
	X	
		Preparer's Initials <u>CB</u>
<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	Rationale:
	X	
		Preparer's Initials <u>CB</u>
<p>(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).</p>		
Yes	No	Rationale:
	X	
		Preparer's Initials <u>CB</u>
<p>(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).</p>		
Yes	No	Rationale:
	X	
		Preparer's Initials <u>CB</u>

(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	Rationale:	
	X	There is no new disturbance with this project. Therefore, it is unlikely to introduce noxious weeds to site.	Preparer's Initials <u>AJ</u>

**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:**

APPROVING OFFICIAL: DLSAL

DATE: 6-18-2015

TITLE: Field Mgr (acting)

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-200-11-238  
Case # AZAR-018248  
Date: June 16, 2015

### **COMMENT DOCUMENT WORKSHEET**

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

It is understood that Qwest Corporation/ Century Link has applied to renew their right-of-way for buried telecommunication cables and associated terminal facilities. This right-of-way is located on BLM lands in three separate segments in the Painted Rock Dam area. Legal locations of the various segments lie within T. 4 S., R. 7 W., Section 31; T. 4 S., R. 8 W., Sections 13 and 24; T. 5 S., R. 7 W., Sections 5 and 6; T. 5 S., R. 8 W., Section 1; and T. 5 S., R. 7 W., Section 8.

After checking for previous inventory in AZSITE and in the Phoenix District cultural resource files, it was determined that a field survey would need to be performed. No previous work had been documented along this line. Blanchard walked a single transect along each of these segments to cover the right-of-way and was assisted in these efforts by BLM staff. Field work was accomplished on September 4, 2014 and September 18, 2014.

One cultural site was previously recorded. The cultural site is the Butterfield Overland Stage Route, site AZ T:15:32(ASM). Many other segments of this historic trail have the characteristics that would make it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. When this project was initially installed in 1959, the trenching for the buried cables cut through this historic trail segment. At this point in time, the ground surface has healed so thoroughly, that the original trench cannot be seen. The trenching activities originally were very narrow, since very little of the profile of this historic trail swale was altered. The highway cut lies only about 20 meters to the north of the place where the buried cable cuts through the Butterfield Overland Stage Route segment. The Butterfield Overland Stage Route is a trail currently being studied for the feasibility of designation to National Historic Trail status. Since the buried cables have already been installed many years ago, minor physical damage was done at that time. Any future operations or maintenance activities shall be reported to the BLM prior to any ground disturbing work being done. The proposed work will be reviewed at that time for Section 106 compliance.

Two isolated occurrences of cultural materials were recorded along the route as well. Neither of these other cultural manifestations meets the criteria to be considered a cultural site.

No impacts to any additional significant cultural resources are anticipated as a result of the renewal and amendment of this right-of-way.

Recommendations:

Clearance Not Recommended

Unconditional Clearance Recommended

Clearance Recommended with the Following Stipulations

Standard Stipulations

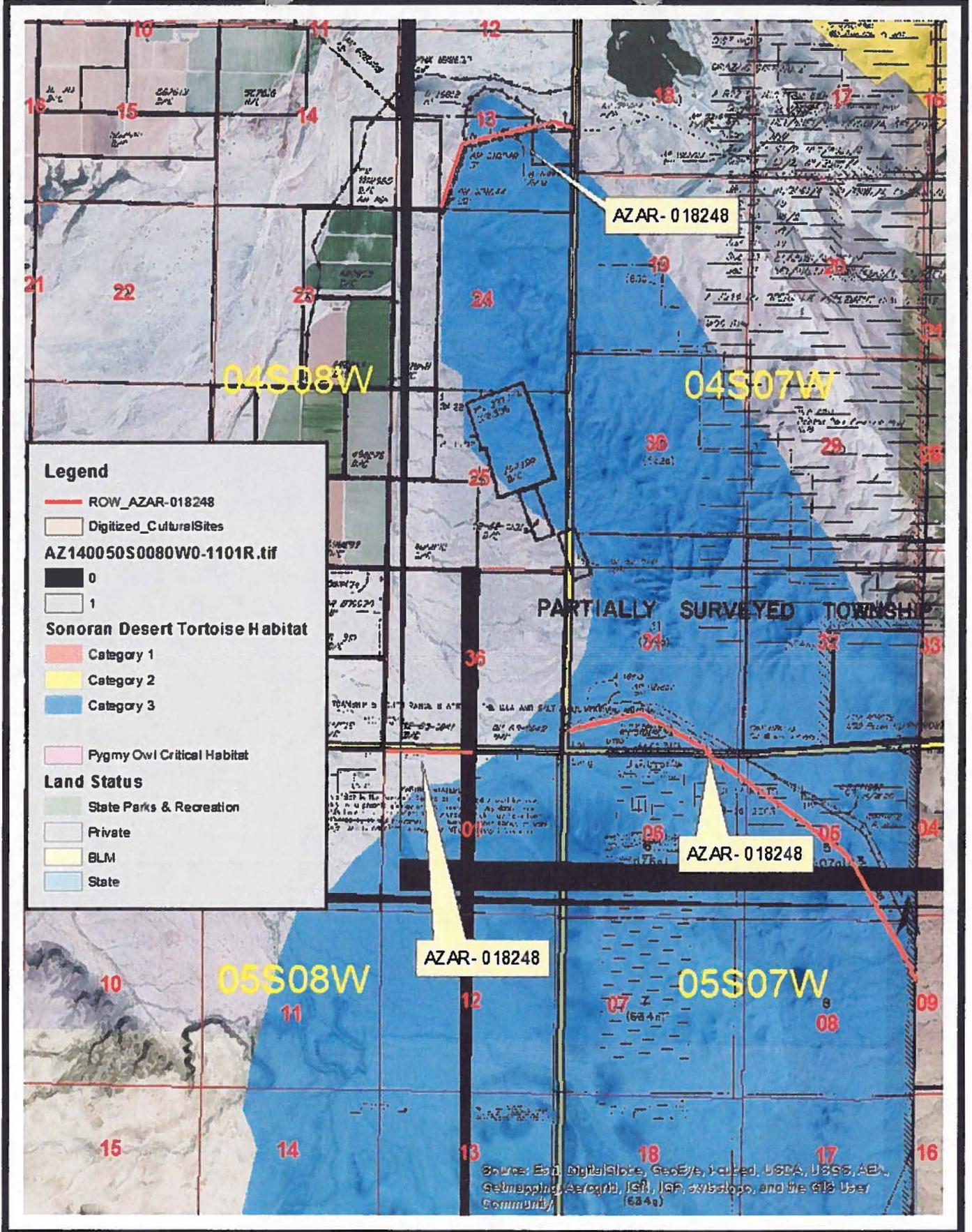
Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Bureau of Land Management authorized officer. The holder shall suspend all operations in 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:

1. Any ground-disturbing activities to be done by the proponent in the area of these coordinates shall be reported to the authorized officer and the BLM Archaeologist. (UTM coordinates: 3655475 m N; 312410 m E and 3655450 m N; 312450 m E. Latitude and Longitude are: 33.021611; -113.00844 and 33.021393; -113.008007)

2. The ground-disturbing activities at this historic trail segment location shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

