

**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-T030-2014-0039-CX**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-37460

Proposed Action Title/Type: IDWR Monitoring Well Right-of-Way

Location of Proposed Action:

Boise Meridian  
T. 7 S., R. 14 E.,  
sec. 3, NE1/2SW1/4.

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

**B. Proposed Action**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Shoshone Field Office has received a right-of-way application from the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) requesting a right-of-way grant for an access road and monitoring well in Gooding County, Idaho. The access road and monitoring well currently exist on public lands and no changes to these developments are proposed as part of the requested ROW grant. The total length of the requested access road right-of-way is approximately 2,937 feet and 20 feet wide. Currently approximately 1,184 feet of the access road is paved and the remaining 1,753 feet has a dirt surface. Access to the monitoring well is via an eight inch diameter steel protective pipe that rises approximately 18 inches above a cement pad that is about 3 square feet. The requested term of the right-of-way is 20 years; access to the well will be needed year round but only on a quarterly basis.

Both the road and the well were developed as part of the areas past use as a county landfill. The landfill has since been reclaimed. The well was initially developed as a monitoring well to collect information on potential contaminants in the groundwater resulting from the landfill. The authorization for the landfill has been terminated and the monitoring well was not plugged and removed. The approval of the requested right-of-way would make use of the existing well and require it to be properly decommissioned when the right-of-way is terminated.

**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)

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

The proposed action is excluded from further documentation under NEPA in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 E (16) “(a)cquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.” The proposed right-of-way for the operation and maintenance of a monitoring well and access road are existing developments that were authorized under an R&PP lease to Gooding County for a landfill. The requested use would not require any further development and is similar to the purposed previously authorized to Gooding County. 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. A right-of-way will be offered to IDWR to operate and maintain the existing monitoring well and access road on public lands in Gooding County. See Attachment C, Draft IDWR Monitoring Well Right-of-Way, IDI-37460.

#### **E. Signature**

Authorizing Official: /s/ Codie Martin  
Name: Codie Martin  
Title: Field Manager

Date: January 8, 2015

#### **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, IDWR Monitoring Well Right-of-Way Location Map

Attachment B, IDWR Monitoring Well Right-of-Way Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet

Attachment C, Draft IDWR Monitoring Well Right-of-Way Grant, IDI-37460