

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA)

Moon Lake Power Line to Serve a Rectifier for Chevron DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0055-DNA

Identifying Information

Project Title: Moon Lake Power Line to Serve a Rectifier for Chevron

Legal Description: Sixth Principal Meridian,
T. 2N., R. 104W., sec. 2, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

Applicant: Moon Lake Electric Association

Casefile/Project Number: COC77170

Conformance with the Land Use Plan

The Proposed Action is subject to and is in conformance (43 CFR 1610.5) with the following land use plan:

Land Use Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP)

Date Approved: July 1997

Decision Language: “To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values.” (page 2-49)

Proposed Action

Project Components and General Schedule

Moon Lake Electric Association (MLEA) has submitted an application to construct a new 7.2/12.5 kV, overhead distribution power line to serve a rectifier for Chevron Texaco. The power line would have one wood pole that would extend 35 to 40 out of the ground and have two anchors. The proposed power line would tie into an existing MLEA power line (COC73135) and the total length of the new installation would be approximately 220 feet, entirely on BLM lands. A 50-foot wide construction and permanent ROW is requested to be used for the construction and staging area, as well as for the future operation and maintenance of this facility. This proposed ROW would encompass approximately .25 acres.

All access would be from existing roads and along the granted rights-of-way. Construction would begin within 45 days of BLM approval and would take 10 to 30 days to complete. The construction crew would consist of four to eight men, using bucket trucks, digger trucks, and smaller crew trucks, as well as a backhoe. Rubber-tired vehicles would be used for all construction.

It is anticipated that very minimal clearing, grading or blade work, if any, would be needed for crews to access and construct this power line; with exception of the holes that would be drilled with an auger for the pole and anchor installations. MLEA would re-seed any areas that are cleared as a result of construction. Activities would occur between August 15th and November 30th and be in accordance with the WRFO District Reclamation Guidelines. MLEA would control any noxious weed that appears in the ROW as a result of the construction activities. All weed control would be completed in accordance to the WRFO District Reclamation Guidelines. If herbicides are to be used, MLEA would submit a Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP). MLEA would install raptor deterrents and measures according to MLEA Avian Protection Plan and all lines are designed with adequate clearances for Raptor protection.

Design Features

1. Moon Lake Electric Association agrees that equipment access and surface disturbance associated with this power line would be confined to the existing parallel ROW corridors that extend northwest from the existing access road. MLEA would not clear any brush.
2. For reclamation, Moon Lake Electric Association agrees to use BLM-recommended Seed Mix #8, outlined in Table 1. BLM recommends that seeding occur between September 1 and March 31. If an alternate date of seeding is requested, Moon Lake would contact the designated Natural Resource Specialist prior to seeding for approval. Drill seeding is the preferred method of application and drill seeding depth must be no greater than ½ inch. If drill seeding cannot be accomplished, seed should be broadcast at double the rate used for drill seeding, and harrowed into the soil.

Table 1. BLM Seed Mix #8 for reclamation.

8	Viva Florets	Galleta Grass	<i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i>	3
	Rimrock	Indian Ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3
	Toe Jam Creek	Bottlebrush Squirreltail	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	2.5
	Rosana	Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4
		Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.25
		Annual Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	2.5
		Mat Saltbush	<i>Atriplex corrugata</i>	2

BLM Required Conditions of Approval to Mitigate Impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.

2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately 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 operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
5. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

Review of Existing NEPA Documents

Name of Document: White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS).

Date Approved: June 1996

Name of Document: CO-110-2008-197-EA, Moon Lake power line to Utah

Date Approved: 02/24/2009

NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new Proposed Action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The Proposed Action is similar in location and nature to what has been previously analyzed. The Proposed Action is to construct a new overhead power line to serve a rectifier. The existing NEPA document (CO-110-2008-197-EA) analyzed the construction of an overhead power line in the same area. The resource conditions and impacts analyzed within the existing NEPA document adequately consider the new impacts considered with the new proposed action.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the new Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

The EA analyzed two alternatives: the Proposed Action and a No Action Alternative. In general, the Proposed Action considered the construction of an overhead power line to serve Northwest Pipeline, consisting of wood poles, extending 35 - 40 feet out of the ground with cross arms supporting aluminum conductors. No new resource issues were identified to necessitate analysis of additional alternatives. These alternatives are considered to be appropriate for the proposed action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new Proposed Action?

Review by BLM WRFO specialists in this document (DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0055-DNA) did not indicate recent endangered species listings or updated lists of BLM-sensitive species that would be affected by the Proposed Action.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new Proposed Action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Review by BLM WRFO specialists in this document (DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0055-DNA) did not indicate there would be any direct, indirect, and cumulative effects from the Proposed Action that were not adequately addressed in CO-110-2008-197-EA.

5. Is the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents adequate for the current Proposed Action?

This project was posted on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 05/06/2015. No comments or inquiries have been received.

Interdisciplinary Review

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 05/05/2015. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional review or remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	6/5/2015
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	6/10/15
Heather Woodruff	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	5/5/2015
Keesha Cary	Realty Specialist	Project Lead	07/02/2015
Joe David	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance	07/15/2015

Cultural Resources: Provided that MLEA can install the required power pole in previously disturbed areas, as shown on the 2013 National Agricultural Image Program (NAIP) photographs of the area, no cultural resources inventory will be required. If the pole cannot be placed in previous disturbance, a cultural resource inventory would be required. If the power pole is located in previous disturbance, there would be no new direct impacts to any known cultural resources.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Paleontological Resources: The proposed power line and pole location are located in an area generally mapped as the Upper Mesaverde (Tweto 1979), which the BLM has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation, indicating that it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossils. If the pole and anchors are set using an auger, a paleontological monitor would not be required. However, if a backhoe is used to excavate any holes into the underlying sedimentary rock, a paleontological monitor would be required.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: Installation of the proposed powerline represents a localized, short term activity on previously disturbed lands that does not involve habitats that support important wildlife-related functions during the late summer or early fall months. Powerline conductors pose a risk of electrocution to large perching birds, particularly large raptors that frequent the project area (e.g., golden and bald eagles, ferruginous and red-tailed hawks). Designing the powerline to conform to accepted industry raptor protection standards (as provided for in mitigation) would minimize this potential effect.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There are no special status plant species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

Mitigation

1. The holder is responsible for obtaining all appropriate state and local permits.
2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately 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), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
3. The applicant shall monitor the disturbed and reclaimed areas for the presence of invasive, non-native, and/or noxious plant species that have become established as a result of the proposed action. The applicant will be responsible for controlling cheatgrass, noxious weeds, and/or problem weeds should they occur and/or increase in density as a result of the proposed action.
4. Upon detection of noxious, non-native, and/or invasive plant species, the applicant will control their presence before seed production using materials and methods as outlined in the White River ROD/RMP and/or authorized in advance by the White River Field Office Manager. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and pesticide use proposals must be approved by the BLM.
5. Equipment used for the project will be thoroughly cleaned prior to the start of the project and after completion of the project to prevent the spread of noxious weeds to and from the project area.
6. In consideration of natural reoccupation or future efforts to reestablish sage-grouse west of Rangely, and as an aid in reducing the availability of effective perches that may aggravate mortality of dispersing ferret, the proponent will be required to install perch deterrents on the cross arms and pole-top of those pole that will be located in the following legal subdivision:
T2N R104W section 2
7. Solid wastes (garbage) and sewage from portolets would be properly disposed of offsite in an approved facility. The release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, produced water, or sewage, etc., (regardless of quantity) must be reported by the lease holder, to the Bureau of Land Management – WRFO Hazardous Materials Coordinator at (970) 878-3800.
8. All construction or maintenance will be postponed when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches or more, unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer (AO). Emergency maintenance may occur when saturated soil conditions exist without prior approval of the AO, but timely notification is required.
9. If access to pole location for construction and/or maintenance results in ruts that are 3 inches or deeper, the holder will notify the AO and initiate reclamation activities including seeding with a BLM approved seed mix, mulching and installation of water bars or other means to reduce the concentration of storm water along tire ruts.

10. The applicant shall be required to achieve a reclamation success rate of sufficient vegetative ground cover from reclamation plant species within three growing seasons. The reclamation shall be comparable of that of the nearby undisturbed plant communities at a Potential Natural Community (PNC) state in relation to the seed mix as deemed appropriate by the BLM.
11. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the holder is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days, the AO will inform the holder as to:
 - whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
 - the mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)
12. If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder will then be allowed to resume construction.
13. The holder shall provide the BLM Authorized Officer with data in a format compatible with the WRFO's ESRI ArcGIS Geographic Information System (GIS) to accurately locate and identify the right-of-way and all constructed infrastructure, within 60 days of construction completion. Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or at last resort, (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. Option 2 is highly preferred. In ALL cases, the data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. Data may be submitted as: (1) an email attachment; or (2) on a standard compact disk (CD) in compressed (WinZip only) or uncompressed format. All data shall include metadata, for each submitted layer, that conforms to the Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata from the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Questions should be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800.
14. Any livestock control facilities (fences, cattleguards, etc.) and/or rangeland improvements impacted during this operation will be replaced or repaired to their prior condition.

Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted

None

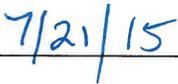
Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



ACTING

Field Manager

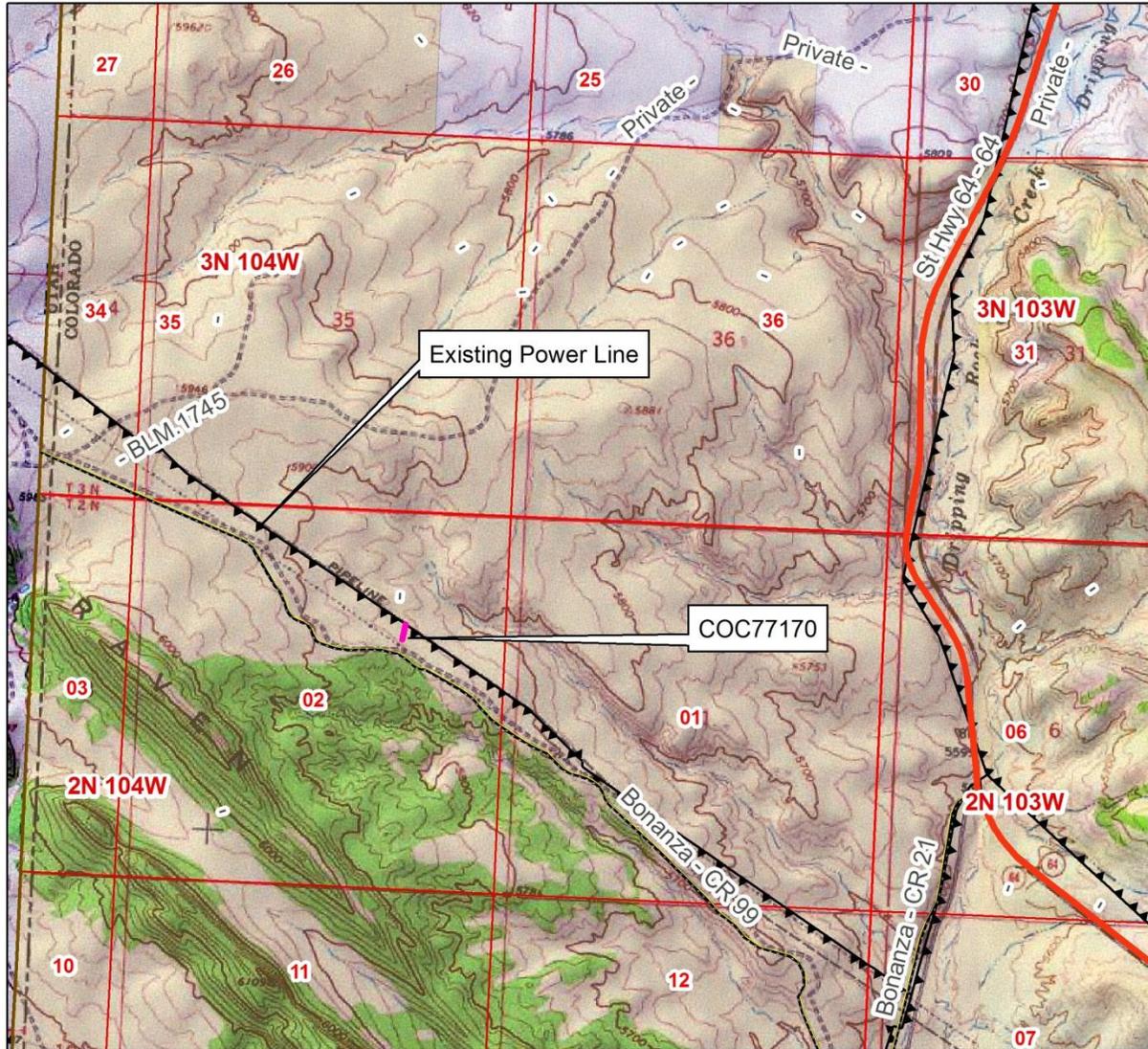

Date

Appendix A. Figures

Exhibit A COC77170 - Moon Lake Electric Association

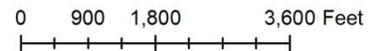
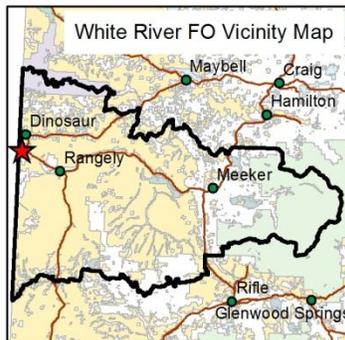
07/02/2015

6TH PM, T. 2N., R. 104W., sec.2, SW1/4NE1/4, Rio Blanco County, Colorado.



Legend

- COC77170
- ▲ COC73135
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- USFS
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- Section Lines



Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

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