U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Project Creator: Matt Simons, Realty Specialist

Field Office/Lead Office: Stillwater Field Office

Case File/Project Number: NVN-090414

Applicable Categorical Exclusion: H-1790-1, Appendix 4 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."

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2014-0009-CX

Project Name: Sierra Pacific Power Company (NV Energy) Columbus Microwave Site Power Line Renewal

Project Description: Renewal of the expired power line right-of-way (ROW), originally issued on July 23, 1959 under the authority of the Act of March 4, 1911. The renewal would be granted under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The new grant would reauthorize the existing 7.2 kV overhead power line ROW for another 30 year term, effective as of the expiration of the previous grant. The expired grant authorized 81,798 feet of power line (15.49 miles), more-or-less, within a 100-foot wide ROW, occupying 187.782 acres, more-or-less. The new grant would authorize the same length within a 40-foot wide ROW, occupying 75.113 acres, more-or-less. Appendix A lists the resource protection measures which would be included in a new grant.

NV Energy would also be authorized to use existing roads to access the power line. Should roads require repairs to make them usable, NV Energy would be required to contact the BLM prior to completing the repairs and obtain a written Notice to Proceed. A Notice to Proceed would also be required when repairs or maintenance to the power line falls outside of existing disturbed areas. If emergency repairs are needed to put the line back into service, NV Energy would be authorized to make road repairs and/or place new poles prior to contacting BLM, but would be limited to the minimum disturbance required to safely complete the work. NV Energy would still be required to contact the BLM as soon as practicable to provide notice of the work so the authorized officer could issue a Notice to Proceed.

Applicant Name: Sierra Pacific Power Company (NV Energy)

Project Location:
Within the following described parts:

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 4 N., R. 35 E.,
sec. 1, N½NE¼ and NE¼NW¼, unsurveyed.

T. 5 N., R. 35 E.,
sec. 4, Lot 4, SW¼NW¼, and W½SW¼;
sec. 9, W½W½;
sec. 16, W½W½;
sec. 21, W½NW¼;
sec. 27, S½SW¼;
sec. 28, W½NW¼, N½SW¼, W½SE¼, and SE¼SE¼;
sec. 34, N½N½ and SE¼NE¼;
sec. 35, S½NW¼, NE¼SW¼, N½SE¼, and SE¼SE¼;
sec. 36, W½SW¼, SE¼SW¼, and SW¼SE¼.

T. 6 N., R. 35 E.,
sec. 32, SW¼NE¼, E½NW¼, and W½SE¼.

T. 4 N., R. 36 E.,
sec. 6, SW¼NW¼, N½SW¼, SE¼SW¼, and SW¼SE¼, unsurveyed;
sec. 7, E½NE¼, SE¼NE¼, and NE¼SE¼, unsurveyed;
sec. 8, W½SW¼, unsurveyed;
sec. 17, E½W½ and SW¼SW¼, unsurveyed;
sec. 20, W½W½, unsurveyed;
sec. 29, W½W½, unsurveyed;
sec. 30, SE¼SE¼, unsurveyed;
sec. 31, E½NE¼, unsurveyed;
sec. 32, SW¼NW¼, unsurveyed.

BLM Acres for the Project Area: 75.113 acres, more-or-less.

Land Use Plan Conformance:
Stillwater Field Office: The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with Administrative Actions listed on page ROW-4 of the Right-of-way Corridor section and would comply with the Standard Operating Procedures listed on pages ROW-4 through ROW-6.

Tonopah Field Office: The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the Objective of the Lands and Rights-of-way section on page 18. A site-specific environmental analysis has been conducted for the proposed ROW renewal, consistent with the Standard Operating Procedure on page 33.

Name of Plan: Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001), Approved Tonopah Resource Management Plan (1997).

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria: (Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

Stillwater Field Office

If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		JD
2. Would the Proposed Action 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 (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (Archeology, Recreation, Wilderness, Wildlife, Range by allotment, Water Quality)		CK PW DW
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (PEC)		[illegible]
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		[illegible]
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (PEC)		[illegible]
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		[illegible]
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (Archeology)		PW
8. Would the Proposed Action 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? (Wildlife)		CK
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (PEC and Archeology)		PW [illegible]
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		[illegible]
11. Would the Proposed Action 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 (EO 13007)? (Archeology)		PW
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native 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 EO 13112)? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		JD

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Planning Environmental Coordinator: Angelica Rose 2/24/14
Public Health and Safety/Noxious Weeds: Jill Devaurs 2-24-14
Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC: Dan Westermeyer 2/24/14
Archeology: Jason Wright 2/24/14
Wildlife: Chris Kula 2/24/14
Soils/Grazing: ~~Linda Appel~~ / Chelsy Simerson / ~~Jill Devaurs~~ 2/24/14

CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

Carla Jamer, Acting — 02-28-14

Teresa J. Knutson (date)
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office

Appendix A
Columbus Microwave Site 7.2kV overhead power line
Serial No.: NVN 090414

Proposed Additional Terms and Conditions

1. The grant would be subject to all valid rights existing on the effective date of the grant.

2. In case of change of address, the holder would be required to immediately notify the authorized officer.

3. The holder would be required to maintain the right-of-way in a safe, usable condition, as directed by the authorized officer. Construction sites would be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times and waste materials at those sites would be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" would mean all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, used petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.

4. Prior to conducting surface disturbing activities, e.g. replacing poles, clearing work areas, or repairing washed out roads, the holder would be required to submit written plans to the authorized officer for review and would not be able to commence work until a written Notice to Proceed is received. The authorized officer may require additional environmental studies, e.g. Class III cultural resources inventory or wildlife surveys, and/or additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation be completed prior to issuing a Notice to Proceed. NEPA documentation may require the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The holder would be responsible for costs incurred to issue a Notice to Proceed.

   If emergency repairs are necessary, the holder would be required to notify the authorized officer as soon as practicable. Only the minimum amount of disturbance to return the power line to service would be allowed without obtaining a Notice to Proceed beforehand. The authorized officer would then notify the holder of the need for additional environmental studies or NEPA documentation.

5. The holder would be authorized to use existing developed and primitive roads to access the ROW to conduct normal inspections and maintenance, without additional authorization from the authorized officer, provided vehicles and equipment remain within the existing road disturbance and no damage is caused that would lead to additional resource damage. The holder would need to obtain a Notice to Proceed prior to maintaining or repairing roads not specifically authorized by the grant.

6. The holder would be required to comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations, existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated, with regard to any hazardous material, as defined in this paragraph, that would be used, produced, transported or stored on or within the right-of-way or any of the right-of-way facilities, or used in the construction, operation, maintenance or termination of the right-of-way or any of its facilities. "Hazardous material" would mean any substance, pollutant or

contaminant that is listed as hazardous under CERCLA of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., and its regulations. The definition of hazardous substances under CERCLA includes any "hazardous waste" as defined in the RCRA of 1976, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq. The term would not include petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof that is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance under CERCLA section 101(14), U.S.C. 9601 (14), nor would the term include natural gas.

7. The holder would be required to protect all survey monuments found within the right-of-way. Survey monuments would include, but would not be limited to, General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Corners, reference corners, witness points, U.S. Coastal and Geodetic benchmarks and triangulation stations, military control monuments, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments. In the event of obliteration or disturbance of any of the above, the holder would be required to immediately report the incident, in writing, to the authorized officer and the respective installing authority if known. Where General Land Office or Bureau of Land Management right-of-way monuments or references are obliterated during operations, the holder would be required to secure the services of a registered land surveyor or a Bureau cadastral surveyor to restore the disturbed monuments and references using surveying procedures found in the Manual of Surveying Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands in the United States, latest edition. The holder would be required to record such survey in the appropriate county and send a copy to the authorized officer. If the Bureau cadastral surveyors or other Federal surveyors are used to restore the disturbed survey monument, the holder would be responsible for the survey cost.

8. Any cultural (historic or prehistoric site or object) or paleontological resource or Native American human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony discovered by the holder, or any person working on their behalf, during the course of activities on federal land would be immediately reported to the authorized officer by telephone, followed by written confirmation. The holder would be required to suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery and protect it until an evaluation of the discovery can be made by the authorized officer.

   For cultural resources other than Native American human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, this evaluation would be to determine the significance of the discovery and what mitigation measures would be necessary to allow the activities to proceed. The holder would be responsible for the cost of evaluation and mitigation. Any decision on treatment and/or mitigation would be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder. Operations may resume only upon written authorization to proceed from the authorized officer.

   For Native American human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony the holder would be required to stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and protect it from the activities for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer. The holder would be responsible for the cost of consultation, evaluation and mitigation. Any decision on treatment and/or mitigation would be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.

9. Colors on all exterior surfaces such as buildings, antennas, towers and microwave dishes would be required to be flat (non-glossy) earth/vegetative tones compatible with existing natural site features, and complementary colors. Existing structures which do not meet this requirement would be modified or replaced as a part of ongoing maintenance of power line facilities. Structures which cannot be painted or require a non-compatible color to operate properly would be identified as such and alternate means of reducing the visual impact, e.g. constructing a fence to block the view or installing a cover, would be utilized where practical. All colors or alternative means to reduce visual impacts would require approval from the BLM prior to use on the ROW.

10. The holder would be responsible for continued noxious weed control within the limits of the right-of-way in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management or the appropriate local authority.

11. Newly installed or upgrades to existing power line infrastructures would be designed, installed and constructed to be avian-safe in accordance with the standards prescribed by the authorized officer. In addition, the authorized officer may require the addition of perch or flight deterrent devices in segments of the power line within the habitat of special status species if deemed necessary.

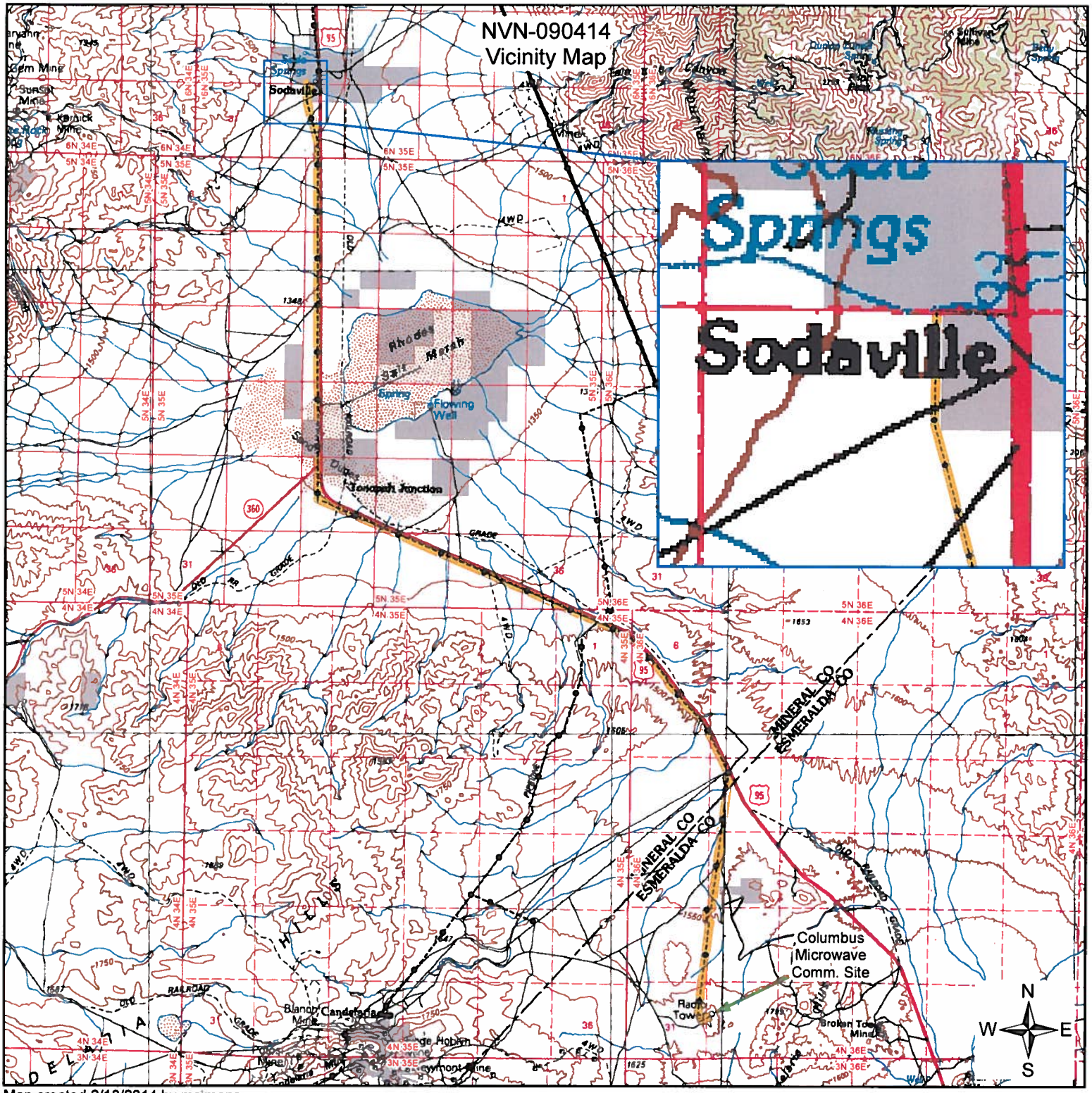
12. Prior to any planned disturbance in potential migratory bird nesting habitat from March 1 to July 31 (the approximate nesting season), a field survey for migratory birds, their nests, eggs, or young should be performed, in order to prevent violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The holder would contact the authorized officer's designated representative to determine if the planned disturbance is in potential migratory bird nesting habitat. If any nests, eggs, or young are found either the project should be delayed until the birds have completed their nesting and brood rearing activities, or the project should be re-designed as to not harm the migratory birds, their nests, eggs, or young. A migratory bird is any species of bird except upland game species, feral pigeons, European starlings, and English house sparrows. Potential migratory bird nesting habitat is any habitat that may provide nesting opportunity for any species of migratory bird. Any violation of the MBTA can incur penalties up to $15,000 or 6 months imprisonment, or both per individual offense. Any questions about the Migratory Bird Treaty Act should be referred to the Reno Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (775) 861-6300, or e-mail at "asknevada@fws.gov".

13. Six months prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder would be required to contact the authorized officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection would be held to agree to an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan. This plan would include but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, or surface material; recontouring, topsoiling, or seeding. The authorized officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.

14. In the event that the public land underlying the right-of-way, or portion thereof, is conveyed out of Federal ownership and administration of the right-of-way or the land underlying the right-of-way is not being reserved to the United States in the patent/deed

and/or the right-of-way is not within a right-of-way corridor being reserved to the United States in the patent/deed, the United States would waive any right it has to administer the right-of-way, or portion thereof, within the conveyed land under Federal laws, statutes, and regulations, including the regulations in Title 43 CFR parts 2800 and 2880, as well as any rights to have the holder apply to the Bureau of Land Management for amendments, modifications, or assignments and for the Bureau of Land Management to approve or recognize such amendments, modifications, or assignments. At the time of conveyance, the patentee/grantee, and their successors and assigns, would succeed to the interests of the United States in all matters relating to the right-of-way, or portion thereof, within the conveyed land and would be subject to applicable State and local government laws, statutes, and ordinances. After conveyance, any disputes concerning compliance with the use and the terms and conditions of the right-of-way would be considered a civil matter between the patentee/grantee and the holder.

NVN-090414 Vicinity Map



Map created 2/18/2014 by msimons.

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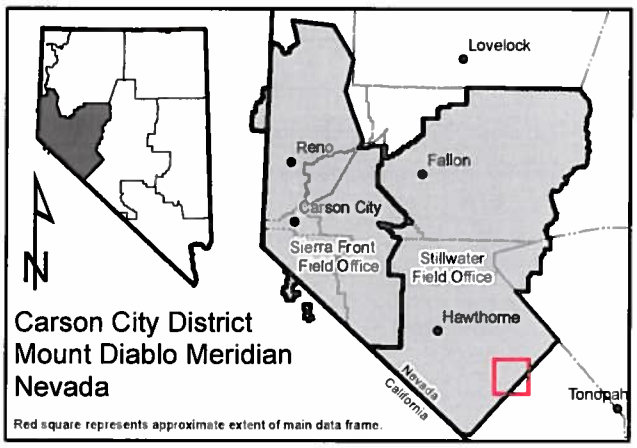


Carson City District
Mount Diablo Meridian
Nevada

Red square represents approximate extent of main data frame.

Elec. trans. line, overhead

Elec. dist. line, overhead

NVN-090414

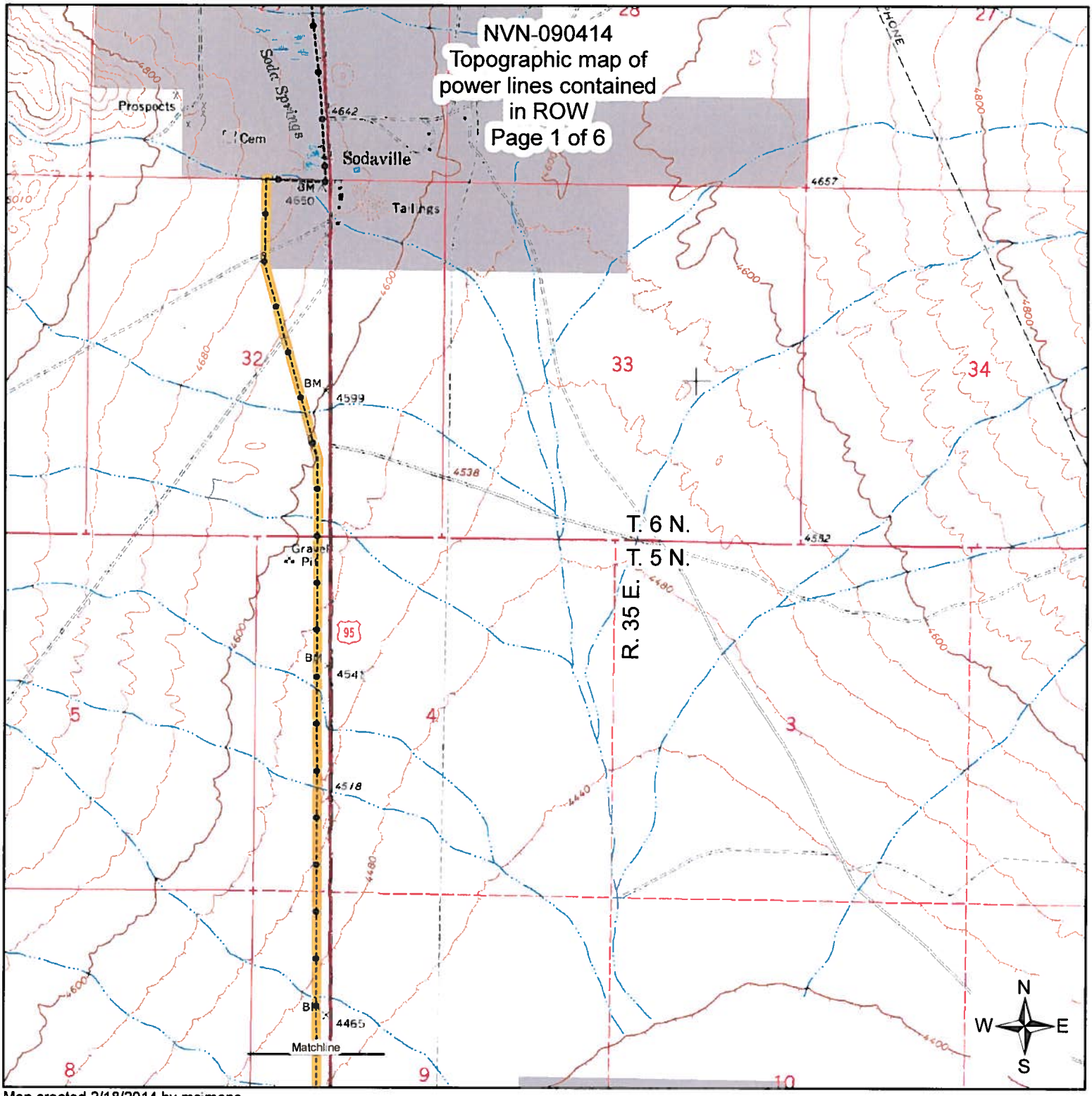
Surface Mgmt. Status

Patented lands

All lands administered by the BLM unless otherwise indicated.

Power lines digitized from aerial imagery

NVN-090414
Topographic map of power lines contained in ROW
Page 1 of 6



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NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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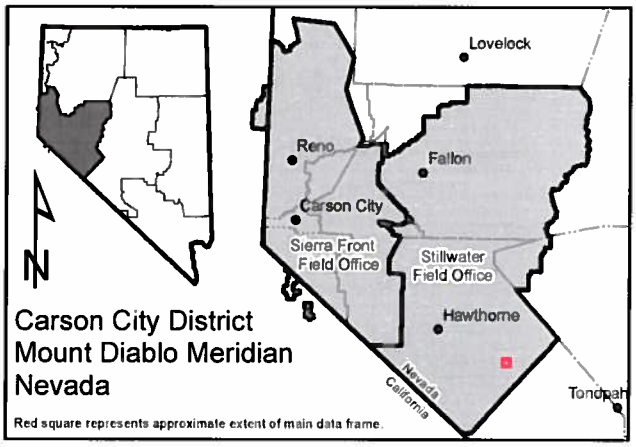

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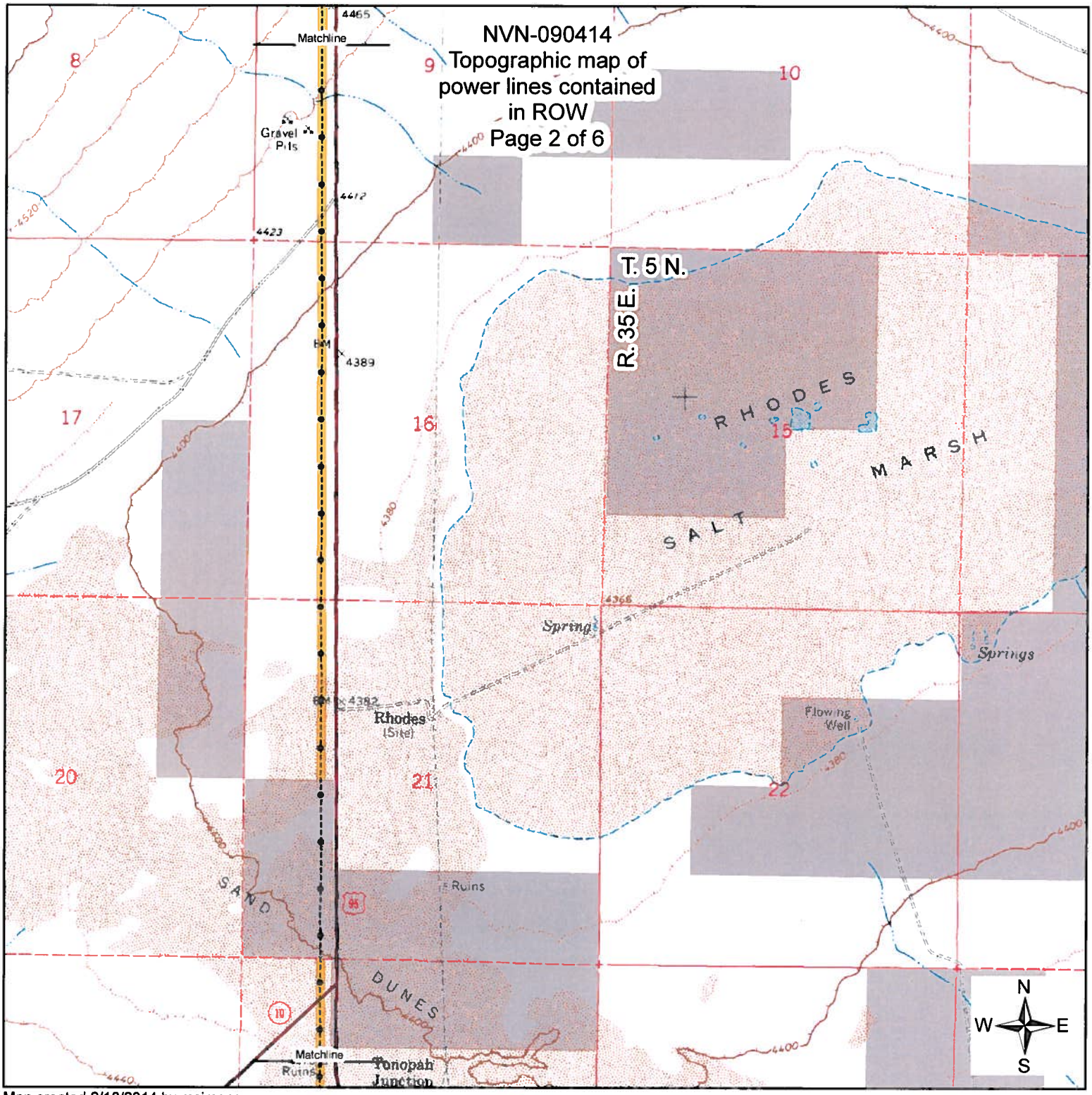

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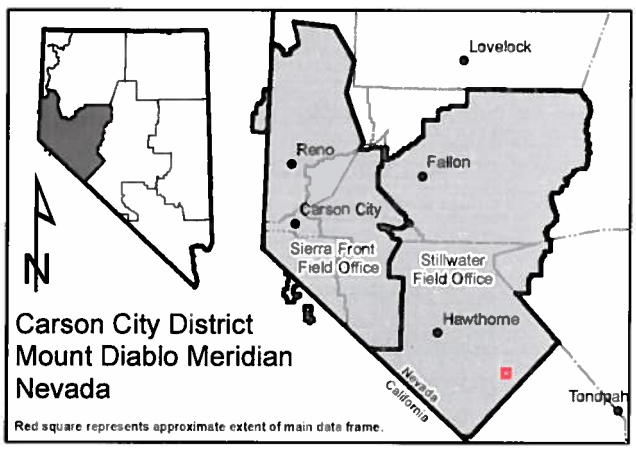

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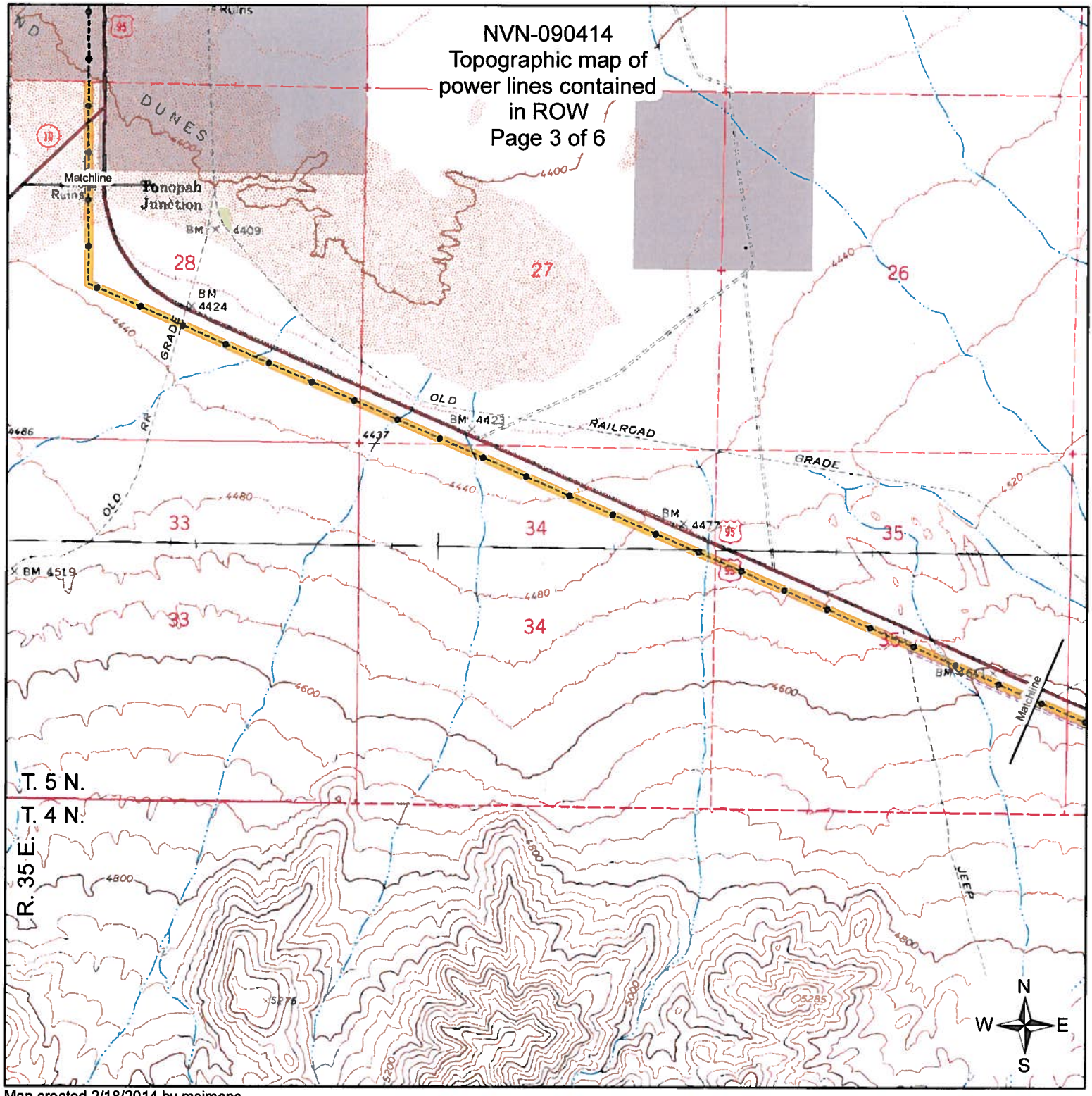

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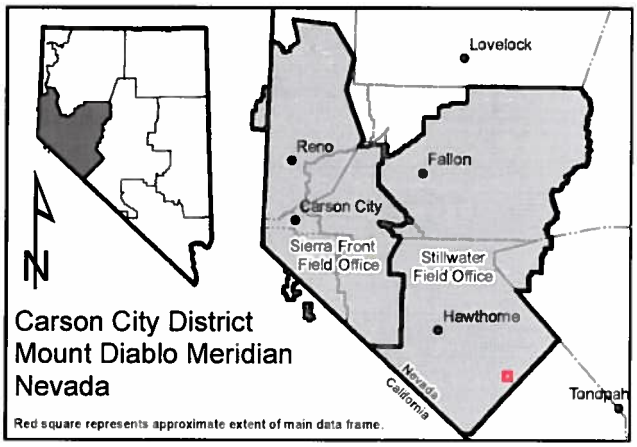

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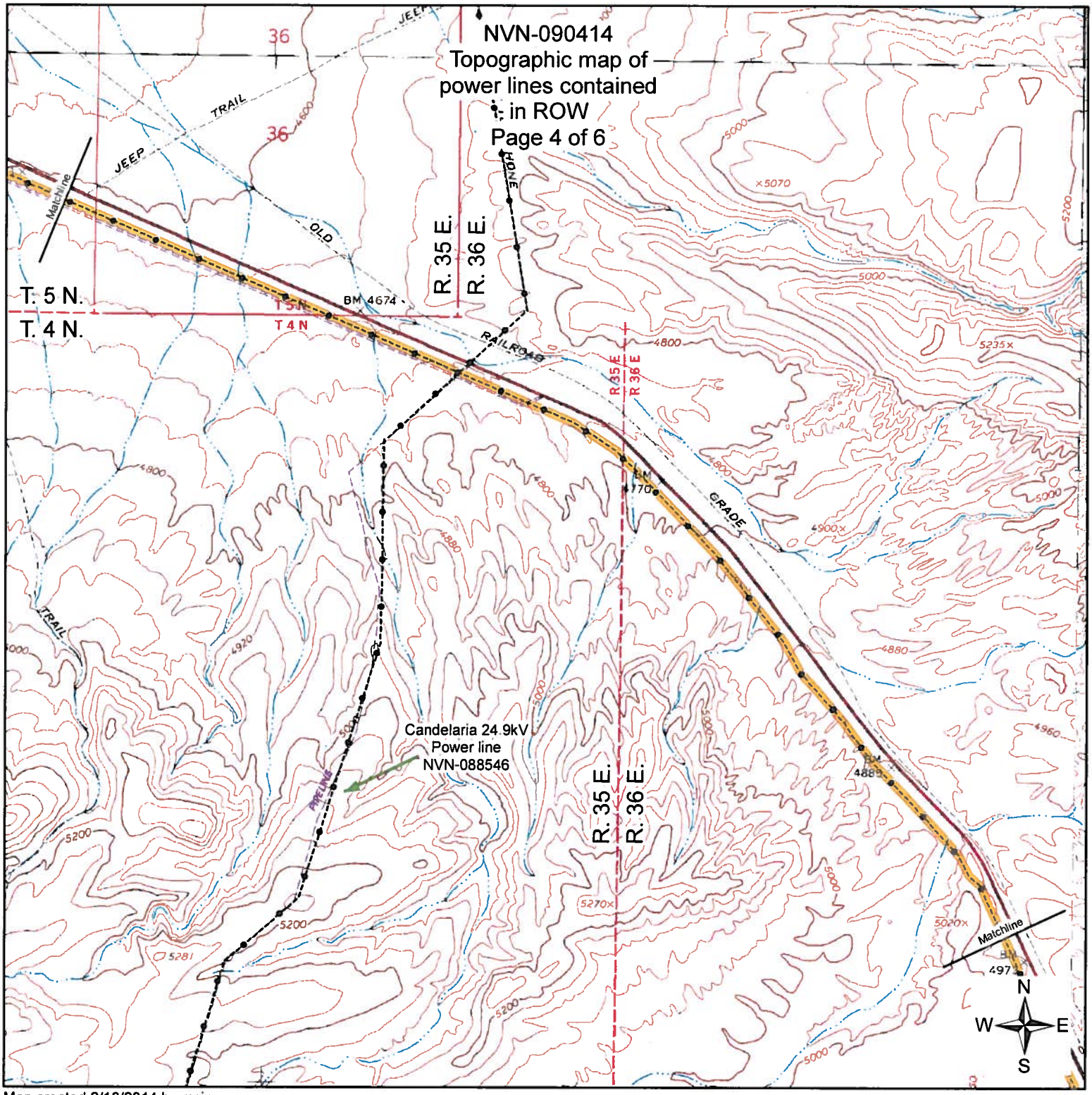

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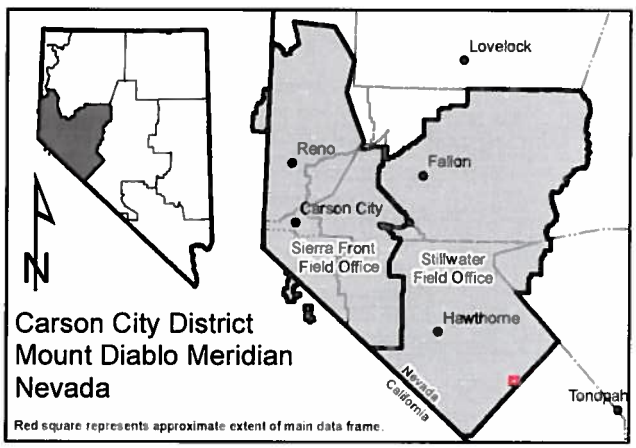

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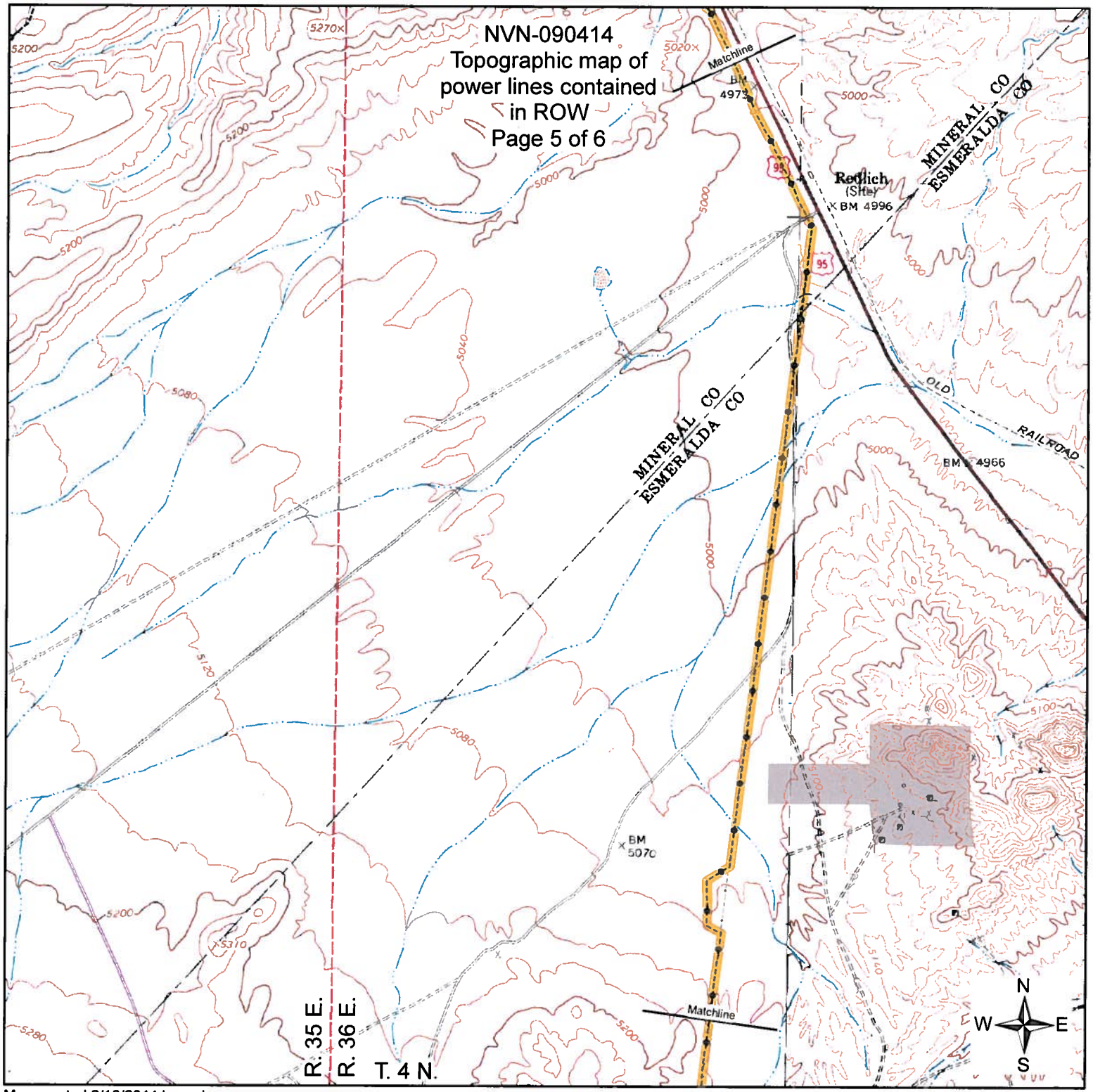

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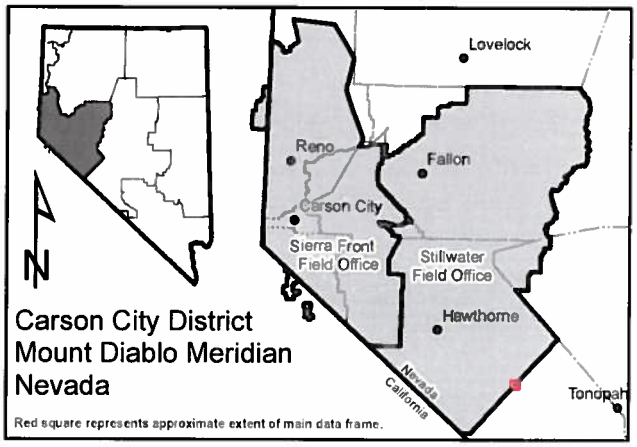

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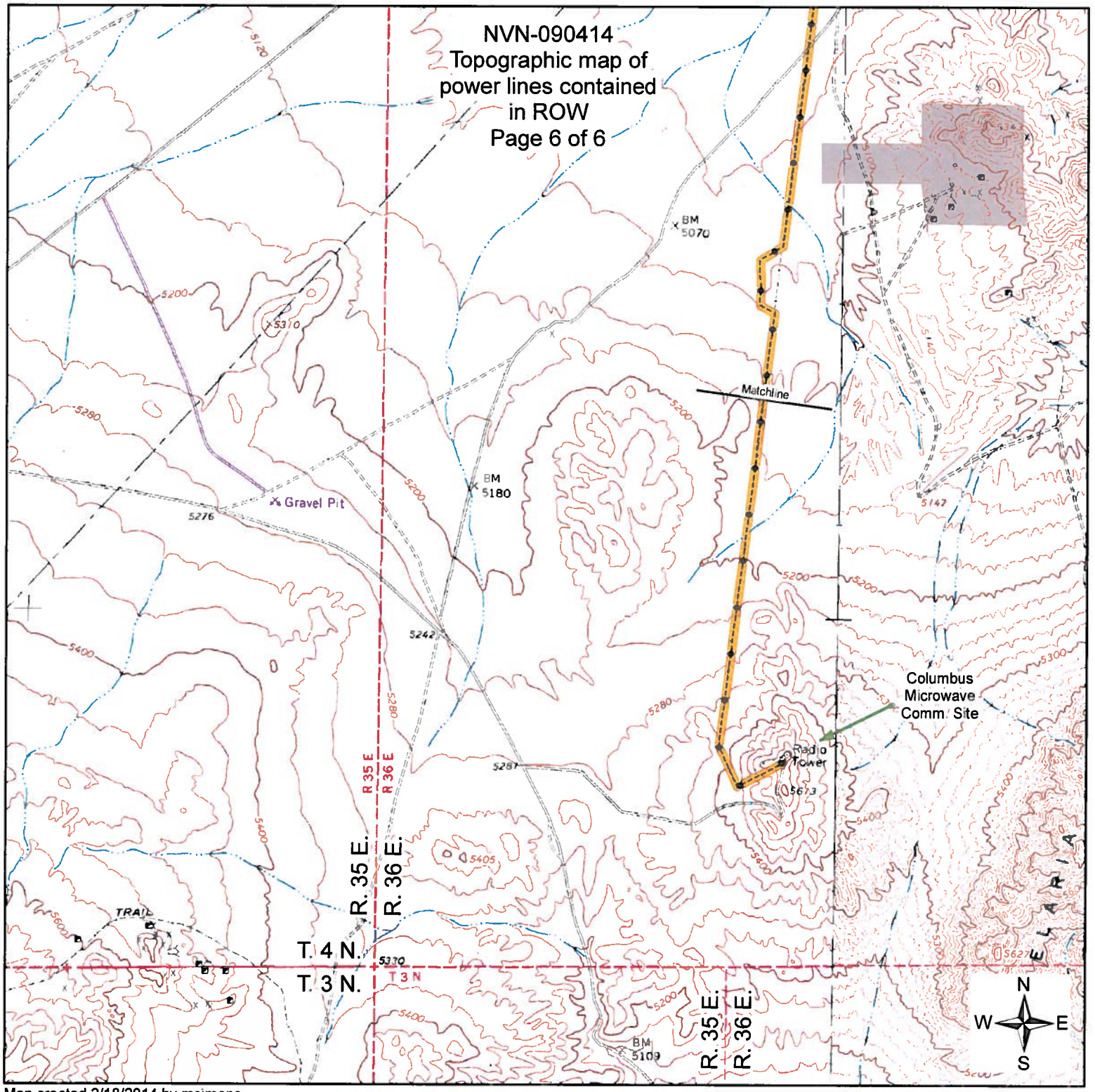

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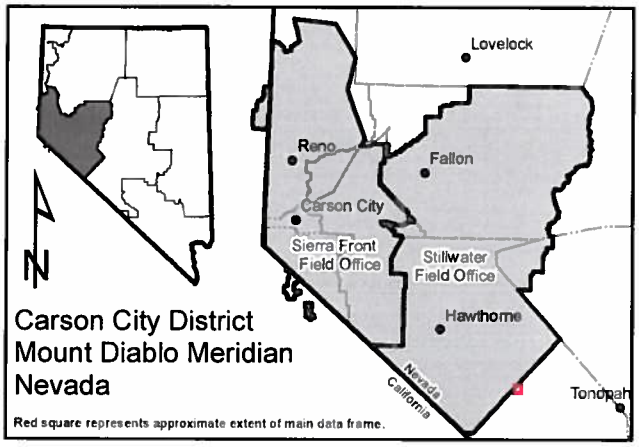

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