

**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: TUCSON FIELD OFFICE

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2015-0026 CX

Proposed Action Title: E Sahuarita CenturyLink
ROW Renewal

Case File No.: AZA-27789

Applicant: Quest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC

Location of the Proposed Action:

Township 17 S. Range 15 E. Section 8, S½S½

The line located just north of E Sahuarita Rd.

Description of Proposed Action:

The ROW is 10 feet wide and approximately 5,280 feet long containing an aerial copper cable telephone line. It was originally issued on 7/17/1995 for 20 years and expired on 7/16/2015. The terms of the grant allowed CenturyLink to hang its line on the infrastructure of an existing line at the time of construction. The overhead communications cable is hung on 19 Trico Electric Cooperative, Inc. poles (case file AZA-13734). All poles used in the ROW are owned/maintained by Trico not CenturyLink. The Trico ROW used to hang this cable expires on 11/16/2040; because of this the BLM is proposing to renew AZA-27789 (CenturyLink) for a term of 25 years and 4 months. No construction or maintenance is currently proposed, only the renewal of the ROW grant.

PART II – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s):
 The Phoenix Resource Management Plan (Phoenix RMP)

Decisions and page nos.: Page 14. "Land use authorizations (rights-of-way, leases, permits, easements) would continue to be issued on a case by case basis."

Date plan approved/amended:
 September 29th, 1989.

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 [Appendix 4E.9] "Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original operations."];

And

B. Extraordinary Circumstances Review: In accordance with **43 CFR 46.215**, any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subject to sufficient environmental review to determine if it meets any of the 12 Extraordinary Circumstances described. If any circumstances 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:
Kyle Prinster	9-22-15
Linda Dunlavey	9-22-15
Amy Sobiech	9-22-15
Darrell Tersey	9-22-15

/s/ Amy Markstein		9-22-15	
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST		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: The proposed action would not have significant impacts on public health or safety. All facilities already exist.	Preparer's Initials KP
(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 x	Rationale: The proposed action would not 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 principle drinking water aquifer's; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. All facilities already exist. See attached stipulation 2.9.	Preparer's Initials DT
(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].			
Yes	No x	Rationale: The proposed action does not have highly controversial environmental effects nor does it involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. There are no known issues in regards to the proposed action.	Preparer's Initials KP
(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.			
Yes	No x	Rationale: The proposed action does not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental	Preparer's Initials KP

		effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. All facilities already exist.	
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.			
Yes	No x	Rationale: The proposed action does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. Future actions, if any, would require processing in accordance with laws, regulations, and policy.	Preparer's Initials KP
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.			
Yes	No x	Rationale: The proposed action does not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The line is hung on another proponents infrastructure (Trico line AZA-13734), but CenturyLink has permission in the original grant. The connection here does not pose an environmental threat.	Preparer's Initials KP
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.			
Yes	No x	Rationale: The proposed action does not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic places as determined by the bureau because none exist within the project area. Please see attached stipulations 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3.	Preparer's Initials AS
(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.			
Yes	No x	Rationale: The proposed action will not 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. There are listed species within the project area but stipulations 2.9, 2.10 and 2.11 protect any listed species. The Tucson Field Office Natural Resource Specialist has completed a biological clearance (9-21-15) for this	Preparer's Initials DT

		project.	
(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.			
Yes	No x	Rationale: The proposed action will comply with all Federal law, or State, local or tribal law imposed for the protection of the environment.	Preparer's Initials KP
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).			
Yes	No x	Rationale: The impact of the proposed action, if any, will be equal to all populations.	Preparer's Initials KP
(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: The proposed action will not 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 a sacred site. All facilities already exist and no such sites exist within the project area. The proposed action has been cleared by the Tucson Field Office Archaeologist.	Preparer's Initials AS
(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 proposed action will not 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. The renewal is for an existing overhead telephone line; therefore, this action should not contribute to the spread of noxious weeds or non-native species. Please see stipulations 5.1 and 5.2.	Preparer's Initials DT

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: See attached stipulations.

APPROVING OFFICIAL: /s/ Claire Crow

DATE: 9/22/15

TITLE: Acting Field 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.