



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: MTA ROW renewal

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2015-0027-CX

Case File Number: AA-77579

Location / Legal Description: Sec. 6, T. 24 N., R.4 W., Seward Meridian

Applicant (if any): Matanuska Telephone Association (MTA)

Description of Proposed Action: In 1995 MTA was issued a right-of-way (ROW) grant for telephone lines in the Talkeetna Area, along the Talkeetna Spur Road. This ROW expired on July 17, 2015. In June 2015, the MTA was requested to submit a request in writing for the renewal of this existing ROW. On June 30, 2015, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Glennallen Field Office received a renewal request for this existing ROW. This existing ROW is on state selected BLM managed lands within the Talkeetna area along the Talkeetna Spur Road and provides telephone service to private individuals and businesses within Talkeetna. The existing row is 5' in width and approximately 1,566' long for a total of 0.18 acres.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan, September 2008.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

- I. Lands and Realty
 - I-1: Goal
 1. Support the BLM Alaska policy to survey and convey lands to the State of Alaska, the ANCSA Native Corporations and to Native Allottees.
 2. Provide a balance between land use (Right-of-Way, permits, leases and sales) and resource protection which best serves the public at large.

3. Provide support to other BLM programs to protect and enhance resources.

I-2n: Rights-of-Way

The BLM may issue rights-of-way for a variety of uses including but not limited to: roads, water pipelines, electric lines and communication sites under the authority of Title V of FLPMA. Oil and Gas pipelines are issued using the Mineral Leasing Act (1920). Stipulations developed during the proposal’s evaluation will include:

- Restoration, revegetation and curtailment of erosion along the right-of-way route;
- Compliance with air and water quality standards;
- Control or prevention of damage to the environment, public and private property and hazards to public health and safety;
- Protection of subsistence resources and the user’s access to those resources;
- Protection of natural resources associated with public lands;
- Utilization of right-of-ways in common with respect to engineering and technological compatibility will be promoted;
- Coordination with the State and Local governments, tribal entities and interested groups and individuals takes place to the fullest extent possible;

C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR 46.210 or United States Department of the Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11, which provides:

E. Realty

9. Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.

D. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The proposed action must be screened against the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 43 CFR § 46.215 (listed below). Any “yes” finding requires that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the Proposed Action.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	No
2. 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.	No
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or	No

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	No
8. 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.	No
9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No
11. 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).	No
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or 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).	No

E. SIGNATURE

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is an action that can be categorically excluded. The Proposed Action does not trigger any of the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 516 FM Chapter 2, Appendix 2. I recommend that the Proposed Action be allowed and that no further environmental analysis is required.

/s/ Dennis C. Teitzel

12/10/2015

Dennis C. Teitzel
Glennallen Field Manager

Date