

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Lewistown Field Office
920 NE Main, Lewistown, Montana 59457

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

A. Background

BLM Office: Lewistown Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No.: MTM-55529
NEPA Number (if applicable): DOI-BLM-L060-2016-0003-CX

Proposed Action Title/Type: McCone Electric Amendment

Location of Proposed Action (include county): Petroleum County, Montana T. 16 N., R. 30 E., Section 19: Lot 17.

Description of Proposed Action: McCone Electric Coop has requested permission to add a short segment of overhead line to provide services to a member near the Musselshell River, further described as T. 16 N., R. 30 E., Section 19: Lot 17. There is a previously authorized line which they will connect to. The new cable would be a total of 285 feet, 240 feet of which would be over BLM administered land. The requested width is 60', for a total of .33 acre. There would be no new surface disturbance on BLM land, as the 240' would only cross the BLM as an overhead line. All other work would be contained with the previously authorized ROW corridor. If approved work is expected to be completed early winter, and should take less than one day for construction. See map information.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Judith-Valley-Phillips RMP Date Approved/Amended: 09/09/1994
The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): Page 30: ROWs will be considered on a case-by-case basis with appropriate stipulations.

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E (14) Grants of rights-of-way for an overhead line (no pole or tower on BLM land) crossing over a corner of public land and (17) Grant of a short rights-of-way for utility service or terminal access road to an individual residence.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46.215 apply.

Grazing Administration: The proposed action is located within the Deep Coulee allotment (#02540), grazing authorization #2506372. The proposed action will not affect grazing administration for this allotment because the proposed action will not destroy or

compromise existing allotment boundary fences. The proposed action does not include surface disturbing activity; therefore, rest from livestock grazing is not required.

Vegetation: The proposed action is located within area dominated by cool-season grasses, with forbs and shrubs occurring in small percentages. The initial installation process of the cable (laying out line on ground) is expected to temporarily disturb the vegetation by crushing individual plants on less than .33 acres of BLM lands. The impacts to vegetation do not warrant analysis because the level of disturbance associated with the proposed action is not expected to cause the plant community to cross a threshold that would require intensive treatment to return it to pre-disturbance conditions.

The proposed action does not include new surface disturbing activity on BLM; therefore, there will be no addition impacts to soil resources beyond what currently exist. For this reason, soil resources won't be affected to an extent that warrants analysis. No surface disturbance is associated with the proposed action. The customer to be supplied with electricity already has a dwelling constructed accessible by private land. Therefore, there is no directly connected action, which would increase surface disturbance. For these reasons, water resources and riparian-wetland areas would not be affected to an extent that warrants analysis.

There have been three cultural resource inventories completed in this section with negative results. Combined with the lack of ground disturbance on public land there is no need for additional inventory. This project has no potential to affect historic properties.

The proposed action occurs within and adjacent to an existing ROW. Given the proximity to the existing overhead lines and since there is no surface disturbance on BLM. Montana Natural Heritage Program database doesn't show any Threatened or Endangered Species in this area and it is outside Sage-Grouse habitat.

There will be no disturbance of geological resources.

Pertinent design features (stipulations or mitigation) to be included:

1. Access should be limited to times when it can occur without undue road/resource damage (i.e. rutting in excess of 3", sliding off of the road, erosion, etc).

I considered this review and determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the proposed action.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official: SL Ate Date: 12/10/15
(Signature)
Name: Shave Hershman
Title: Field Manager



-  Existing Overhead Line M-55529
-  Proposed Route
-  National System of Public Lands (BLM)
-  Administered Public Domain (PD)
-  State of Montana

MTM-55529 Amendment Proposal
Petroleum County, Montana
T. 16 N., R. 30 E.

No warranty is made by BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of this data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Map generated by Lewistown Field Office on October 30, 2015.