

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Categorical Exclusion Not Established By Statute  
DOI-BLM-UT-C030-2016-0001-CX**

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**December 2015**

**Right-of-Way Amendment and Relinquishment Application  
PacifiCorp**

**UTU-43523**

***Location:*** Veyo

Salt Lake Base Meridian

T. 40 S., R. 17 W.,  
sec. 13, NENE;  
sec. 24, SWNE, NWSE.

T. 39 S., R. 17 W.,  
sec. 33, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW.

***Applicant/Address:*** PacifiCorp  
1407 W. North Temple, Suite 110  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

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St. George Field Office  
345 E. Riverside Dr.  
St. George, UT 84790  
Ph.(435) 688-3200  
Fax (435) 688-3252



**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FORMAT WHEN USING  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE**

**A. BACKGROUND**

**BLM Office:** St. George Field Office

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-UT-C030-2016-0004-CX

**Lease/Serial/Case File No:** UTU- 43523

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** PacifiCorp Right-of-Way Amendment and Relinquishment

**Location of Proposed Action:** Veyo

Salt Lake Base Meridian

T. 40 S., R. 17 W.,  
sec. 13, NENE;  
sec. 24, SWNE, NWSE.

T. 39 S., R. 17 W.,  
sec. 33, S½SW.

**Description of Proposed Action:**

PacifiCorp has applied for an amendment and relinquishment of a portion of their current right-of-way UTU-43523. This is an existing 34.5 kV distribution line that provides station electrical service to the Kern River Veyo compressor station. Three transmission line poles would be removed from BLM, moved to adjacent private land to the west, and upgraded from 40 feet to 80 feet tall at the west edge of the Veyo Volcano (Sec. 13). Where poles and conductors need to be removed, a line-truck with pole trailer would need to drive to each pole-location to remove the existing conductor and pole. There is an existing two track along the poles on the west edge of the Veyo Volcano that will be used for removal. Nine additional poles and all the conductors would be removed from BLM land south of Upper Sand Cove Reservoir (Sec. 24). The terrain for these poles is too rugged for the line truck to access. Therefore, the plan is to remove the poles using ATV's and/or winches. This has been determined to cause the least impact. All temporary construction equipment and facilities will be located on private land.

Five new 50-foot-tall transmission line poles would then be constructed at the Veyo Waste Heat Recovery Facility to connect the planned facility to the existing transmission line (sec 33). The construction of the new poles was analyzed in the Veyo Waste Heat Recovery Facility EA, DOI-BLM-UT-C030-2014-0006-EA.

The project would be designed according to the application design codes and standards such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)- 70, the National Electrical Code and associated ANSI and Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) standards, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements.

Please see attached maps

## **B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE**

**Land Use Plan Name:** St. George Field Office Resource Management Plan

**Date Approved/Amended:** March 1999

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

LD-12 States: *“Applications for new rights-of-way on public lands will be considered and analyzed on a case-by-case basis...”*

## **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 2.3A (2):

E. (13) Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary.

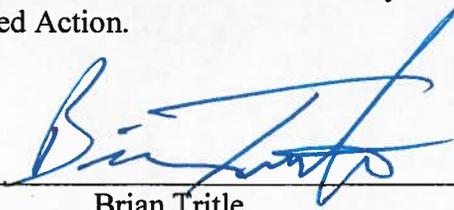
This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46.215 apply.

I considered,

- Public health or safety.
- natural resources and unique geographic characteristics such as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands, national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.
- Unique or unknown environmental risks.
- Precedent for future actions.
- Relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
- Properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.
- 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.
- Federal, state, local, or tribal law.
- Low income or minority populations.
- Access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners and potential affect of the physical integrity of such sacred sites.
- Introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area.

and determined that none of the above "Extraordinary Circumstances" would be negatively affected by the Proposed Action.

**D: Signature**

Authorizing Official:  Date: 12/16/15  
 Brian Tritle  
 Field Office Manager

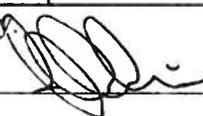
**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Kendra Thomas, Realty Specialist at (435) 688-3211 or klthomas@blm.gov.

**Categorical Exclusion Review Record**

Resource	Yes/No*	Assigned Specialist Signature	Date
Air Quality	No	D. Corry	12/11/15
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No	J. Kellam	12/14/15
Cultural Resources	No	G. McEwen	12/14/15
Environmental Justice	No	J. Kellam	12/14/15
Farm Lands (prime or unique)	No	D. Corry	12/11/15
Floodplains	No	D. Corry	12/11/15
Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	No	R. Reese	
Migratory Birds	No	B. Douglas	12/11/15
Native American Religious Concerns	No	G. McEwen	12/14/15
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species	No	B. Douglas	12/11/15
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No	K. Voyles	12/11/15
Water Quality (drinking or ground)	No	D. Corry	12/11/15
Wetlands / Riparian Zones	No	D. Corry	12/11/15
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	K. Voyles	12/11/15
Wilderness	No	K. Voyles	12/11/15
Lands & Realty	No	K. Thomas	12/14/15

\*Extraordinary Circumstances apply

Environmental Coordinator  Date: 12/14/15

## Extraordinary Circumstance to Categorical Exclusions

### Exceptions to Categorical Exclusion Documentation

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:

Extraordinary Circumstances		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
Yes	No X	<b>Rationale:</b> The project would not have significant impacts on public health and safety because all improvements within the right-of-way are already in place and no impacts on public health and safety have been reported or discovered.
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.		
Yes	No X	<b>Rationale:</b> None of the above concerns are present in the project area.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].		
Yes	No X	<b>Rationale:</b> There are no known controversial environmental effects related to this proposal.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Yes	No X	<b>Rationale:</b> The environmental effects of this project are predictable and well established as insignificant.
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No X	<b>Rationale:</b> Each project is evaluated on its individual merits. This proposal is neither controversial or precedent setting. No future actions which might result in significant impacts to the environment are known at this time.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No X	<b>Rationale:</b> This project is related to another action that will result in the removal of 12 power poles from public lands and the installation of five in another location. This has already been analyzed in an environmental assessment and was not determined to be significant.

### Extraordinary Circumstances

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> Cultural surveys have been completed, the appropriate data bases have been reviewed; and no findings were made during the survey.
	X	

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.

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> Biological inventories have been completed within the project area. No species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or designated Critical Habitat for these species were found within the project area.
	X	

9. Violate a Federal law, or a state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed project would not violate laws/ordinances such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, county ordinances, and state statutes.
	X	

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> There are no low income or minority populations present within or near the project area.
	X	

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).

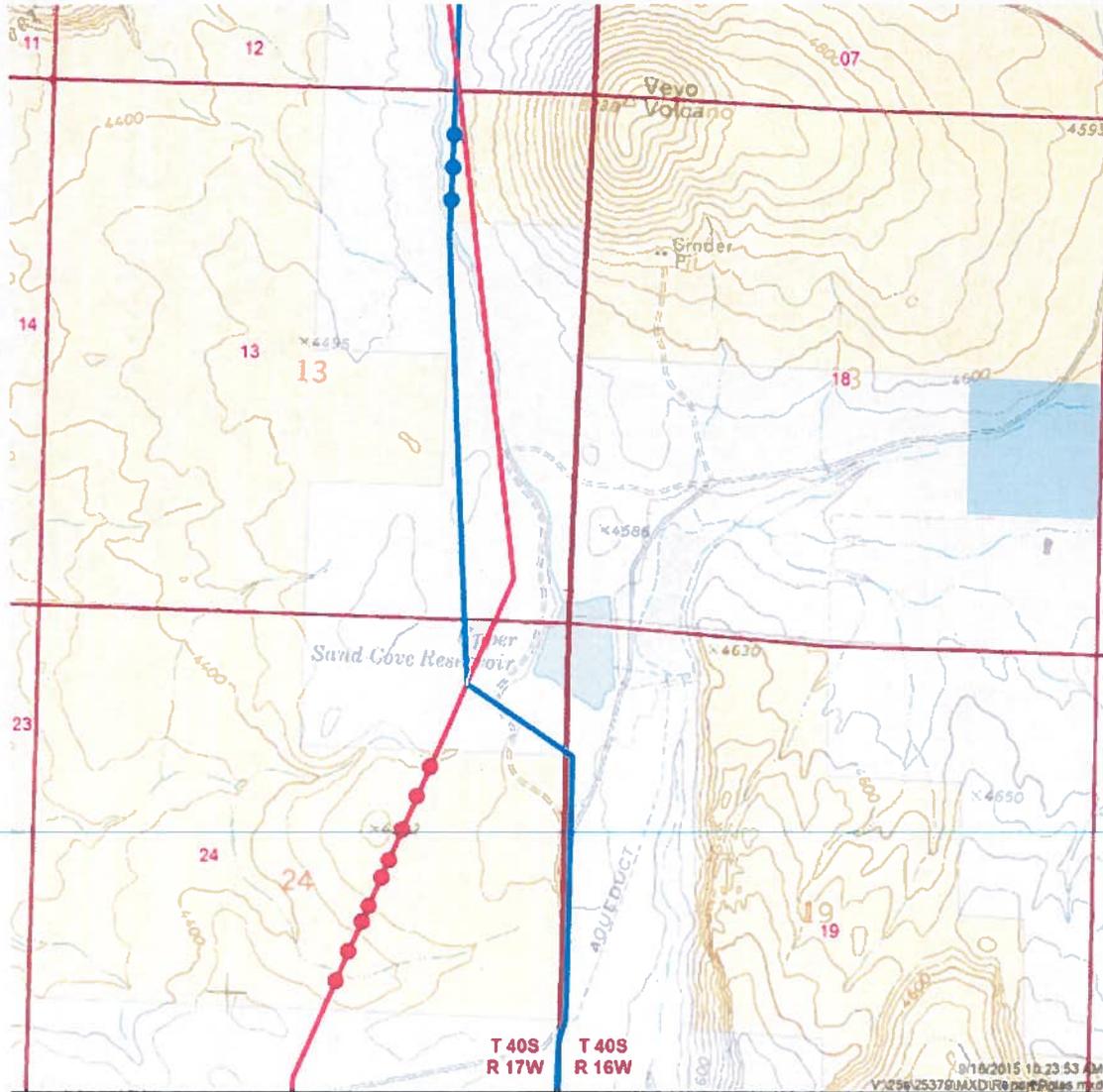
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> Consultations are conducted with the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah and its respective Bands under the protocols established through a Memorandum of Understanding, signed with BLM in 1999. The proposed action would not limit access to, or ceremonial use of sacred sites, nor would it adversely impact the integrity of any known sites.
	X	

12. 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).

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Rationale:</b> As with any vehicle driving in Washington County, the proposed action may contribute to the introduction or spread of noxious weeds or invasive species. Because the project is limited to the local geographic area, the introduction of new species of noxious weeds or invasive species is unlikely. In this instance. The Grantor would be responsible for control of any noxious weeds resulting from the project.
	X	

# UTU-43523 Proposed Transmission Pole Removal Map

Veyo Transmission Line Upgrade POD



- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Pole</b>              | Township Boundary* |
| To Be Removed            | Section Boundary*  |
| Upgrade to 80-foot Poles | BLM                |
| <b>Transmission Line</b> | Private            |
| Remove Poles and Line    | State              |
| Upgrade to 80-foot Poles |                    |



Basemap from the Veyo, UT  
1972 USGS 7.5' quadrangle.  
Contains privileged information.  
Do not release.

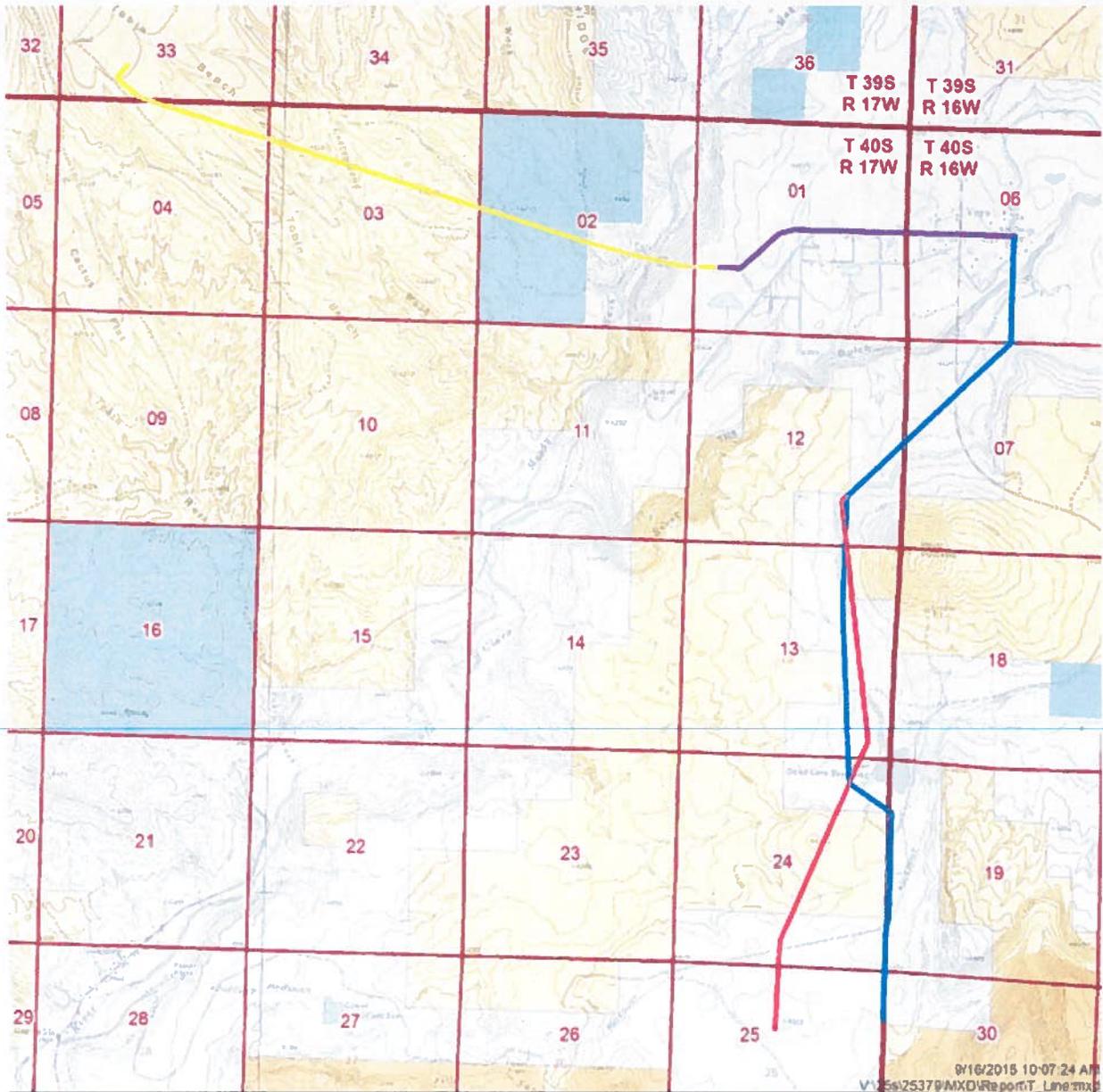
**SWCA**  
SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSTRUCTION AND CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



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# UTU-43523 Project Overview Map

## Veyo Transmission Line Upgrade POD



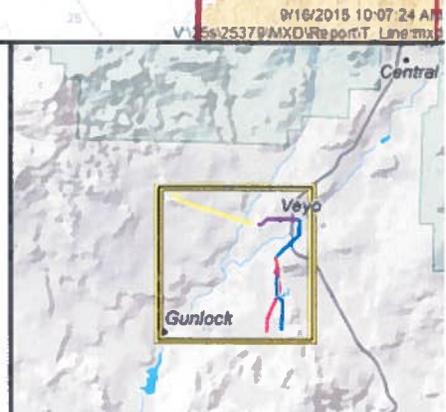
- |                          |                    |                     |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Transmission Line</b> | Township Boundary* | BLM Wilderness Area |
| No Upgrades Needed       | Section Boundary*  | BLM                 |
| Remove Poles and Line    |                    | Private             |
| Upgrade                  |                    | State               |
| Upgrade to 80-foot Poles |                    |                     |



Basemap from the Veyo, UT, 1972 and Gunlock, 1972, UT USGS 7.5' quadrangle

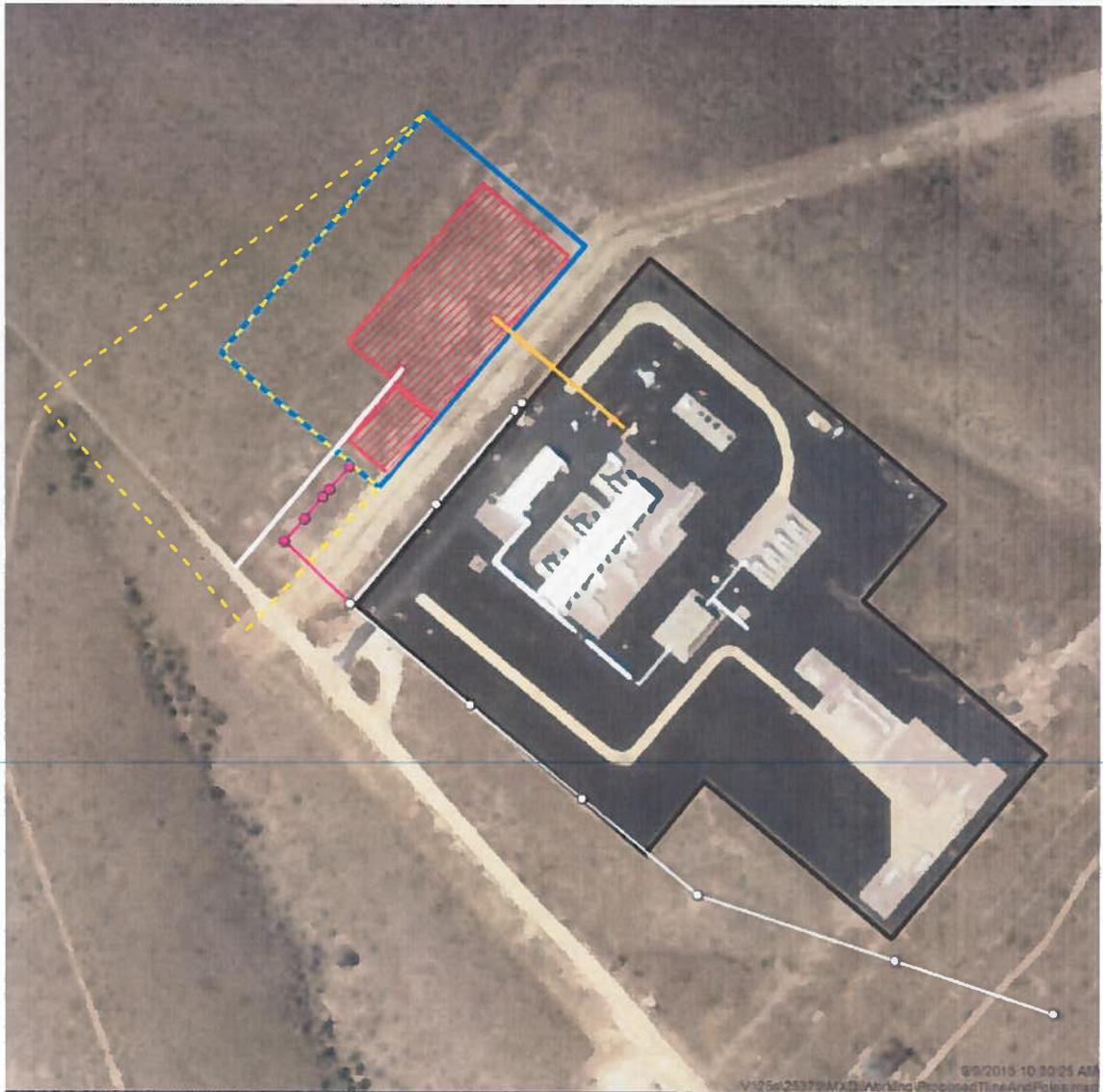
Contains privileged information. Do not release.

**SWCA**  
SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



# UTU-43523 Proposed Transmission Poles at the Veyo Waste Heat Recovery Facility

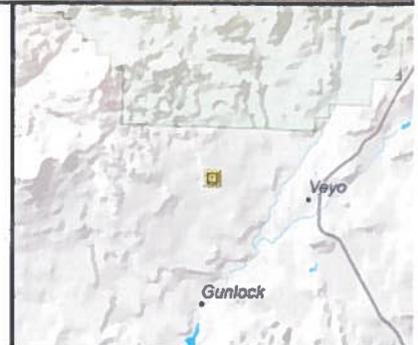
## Veyo Transmission Line Upgrade POD



- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Permanent UAMPS ROW                                 | Existing Pole              |
| Proposed UAMPS Project Site                         | New Pole                   |
| Temporary Work Area ROW                             | Existing Transmission Line |
| Proposed Heat Recovery Pipes                        | New Transmission Line      |
| Proposed Roadway and Driveway Improvements          | Township Boundary*         |
| Existing Kern River Compressor Station Site and ROW | Section Boundary*          |



Imagery from NAIP 2011



**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE  
DECISION DOCUMENT**

**Decision**

It is my decision to implement the action described in Categorical Exclusion DOI-BLM-UT-C030-2016-0004-CX.

**Decision Rationale**

I have reviewed the attached Categorical Exclusion documentation, including plan conformance, NEPA compliance review, and extraordinary circumstances review, and have determined that the action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

**Administrative Remedies**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4.

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer, and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at St. George Field Office, 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, UT 84790. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St. Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

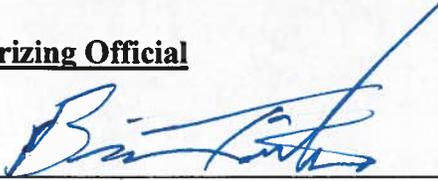
If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

**Authorizing Official**



Authorized Officer

12/16/15

Date