

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)**

PART I. – PROPOSED ACTION

BLM Office: Hassayampa Field Office

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2015-0025-CX

Case File No.: AZA-32855/AZAR-7649

Proposed Action Title/Type: “Rock Springs Extension” Power Line Right-of-Way
Amendment

Applicant: Arizona Public Service (APS)

Location of Proposed Action: West of Interstate 17 just north of Black Canyon City.
This small segment of right-of-way (ROW) to be added to A-32855 runs adjacent to the southwest side of Maggie Mine Road beginning on BLM land about 400’ north of the Maren Avenue intersection, Yavapai County, Arizona.

Description of Proposed Action: APS is requesting an amendment to right-of-way AZA-32855/AZAR-7649, originally was granted on September 16, 2004. The proposed action consists of adding a 500’ x 15’ (0.172 acre) segment of ROW not previously captured or authorized as a part of A-32855. This action simply amends an existing grant, and does not authorize any vegetation management or ground-disturbing activities.

Part II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s):

- The proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decision(s):

The Bradshaw-Harquahala ROD/ARMP states on page 33, Land Use Authorization (LUA) LR-24: Continue to issue LUAs (rights-of-way, leases, permits, easements) on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with resource management prescriptions in this ROD/ARMP.

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with these plans (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2).

PART III. – NEPA COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION REVIEW

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 –

E (16): “Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.”

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 516 DM 2 apply (Appendix 2)

Extraordinary Circumstances Review: In accordance with 43 CFR 46.215, any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine if it meets any of the 12 Extraordinary Circumstances described. If any circumstance applies to the action or project, and existing NEPA documentation does not adequately address it, then further NEPA analysis is required.

IMPORTANT: Standard stipulations will be included in the right-of-way grant and no additional mitigation is proposed.

Part IV. – EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION

PREPARERS:	INITIALS:	DATE:
Michael Rice	<i>M. Rice</i>	<i>8/5/2015</i>
Sarah Striker	<i>See Comment Document M. Rice</i>	<i>8/5/2015</i>
Mary Gilbert	<i>mg</i>	<i>7/27/2015</i>



 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

8/5/15

 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	Rationale: The current action is a simple amendment, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance.	 Preparer's Initials <u>MR</u>
	X		

(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	Rationale: The current action is a simple amendment, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance.	 Preparer's Initials <u>MR</u>
	X		

(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].

Yes	No	Rationale: The current action is a simple amendment, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance..	 Preparer's Initials <u>MR</u>
	X		

(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Yes	No	Rationale: The current action is a simple amendment, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance.	 Preparer's Initials <u>MR</u>
	X		

(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Yes	No	Rationale: The current action is a simple amendment, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance.	 Preparer's Initials <u>MR</u>
	X		

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

(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The current action is a simple amendment, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance.	Preparer's Initials <u>MR</u>
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(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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: No adverse effects to significant cultural resources are anticipated as a result of this activity.	Preparer's Initials <u>SS</u>
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(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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The current action is a simple amendment, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance.	Preparer's Initials <u>MG</u>
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(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The current action is a simple amendment, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance.	Preparer's Initials <u>MR</u>
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(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The current action is a simple amendment, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance.	Preparer's Initials <u>MR</u>
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The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(l)) apply. The project would:		
(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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: No adverse effects to significant cultural resources are anticipated as a result of this activity. Preparer's Initials <u>SS</u>
(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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The current action is a simple amendment, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance. Preparer's Initials <u>MG</u>

PART V. -COMPLIANCE REVIEW CONCLUSION

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 516 DM 2 apply.

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:

Standard stipulations will be included in the right-of-way grant, no additional mitigation is proposed.

AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL: Amanda James DATE: 8/6/15
NAME: Amanda James
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.

COMMENT DOCUMENT WORKSHEET

I, Sarah Striker, in review of the above-noted Proposed Action, have the following comments:

It is understood that Arizona Public Service (APS) is requesting an amendment to an existing right-of-way granted originally on September 16, 2004. The proposed action consists of adding a 500'x15' (.17 acre) segment of ROW not previously captured in A-32855. This action amends an existing grant and does not authorize any vegetation maintenance or ground-disturbing activities. The ROW is in the vicinity of Black Canyon City, Arizona. The legal location is T9N, R2W, S27, SW ¼ NW ¼.

I completed a Class I records review of AZSITE and BLM cultural resource maps and records. According to these sources, none of the area has been surveyed for cultural resources. The AZSite and BLM map review further revealed that no cultural sites had been previously recorded in this area.

I performed a Class III cultural resources survey for the project area on behalf of BLM, surveying a total of .17 acres. No previously unknown cultural resources were identified. Therefore, no adverse effects to significant cultural resources are anticipated as a result of this activity.

Recommendations:

- Clearance Not Recommended
- Unconditional Clearance Recommended
- Clearance Recommended with the Following Stipulations
 - Standard Stipulations

Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Bureau of Land Management authorized officer. The holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values.



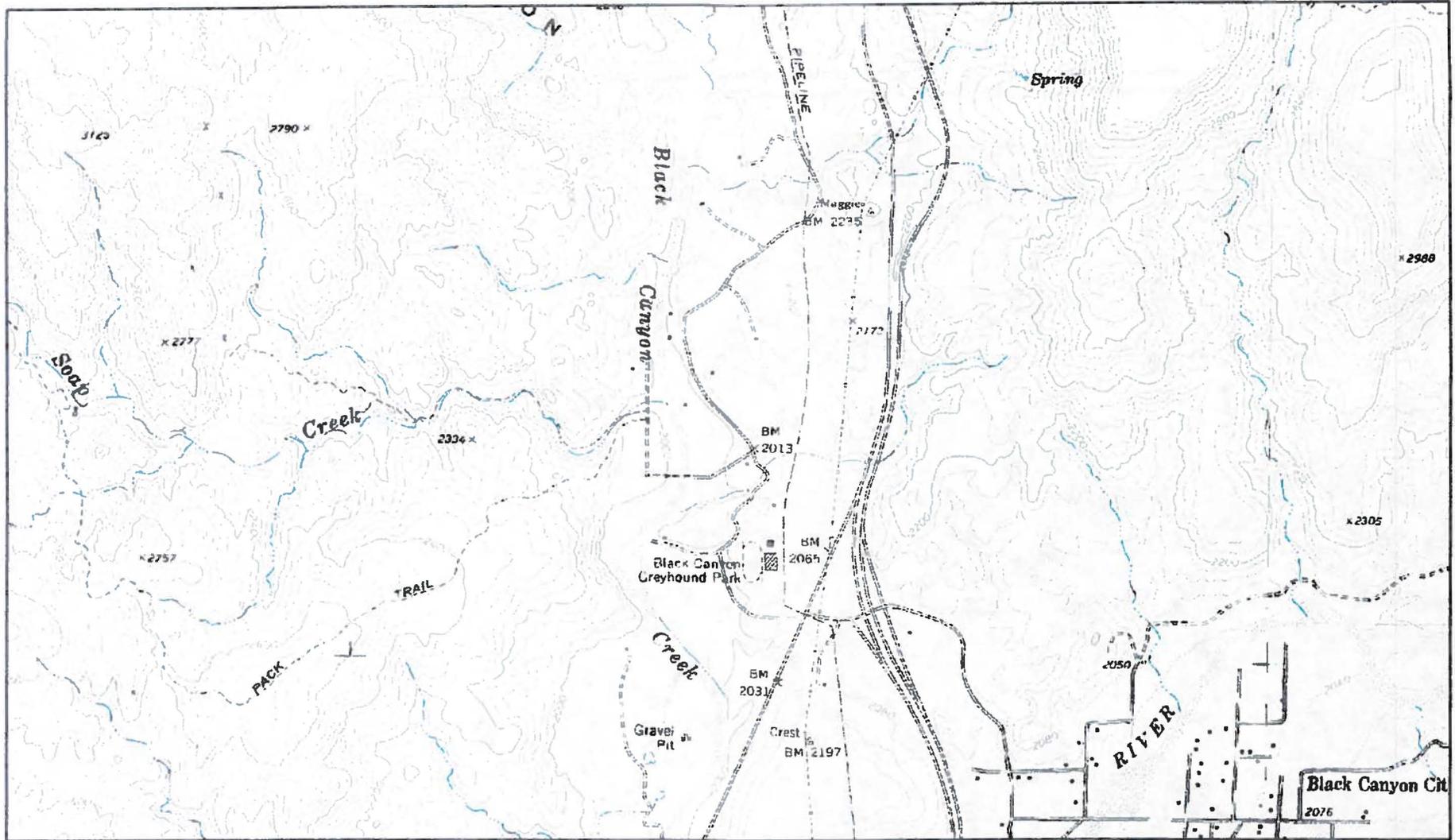
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Google earth

Rock Springs Extension A-32855



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Class III Surveys

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United States Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Arizona State Office
 Land Status updated as of February 2014
 Map Prepared: 6/30/2015



Rock Springs Extension A-32855



USDA BLM and FS personnel

SCALE 1:3,781



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Class III Surveys

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United States Department of the Interior
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