

**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: Safford Field Office

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2016-0001-CX

Case File No.: AZA-016438

Proposed Action Title/Type: Bacon Substation Access Road right-of-way renewal

Applicant: Arizona Public Service

Location of Proposed Action: The access road right-of-way (ROW) takes off to the west from Highway 77, about fourteen miles north of Snowflake, Navajo County, Arizona.

G&SRM, T 15 N, R 21 E, Sec 10;
“Tenmile Cedars” USGS 7.5’ topographic quadrangle.

Description of Proposed Action: Arizona Public Service is requesting renewal of this ROW grant, originally authorized on March 23, 1981. The ROW is a for section of road, 1115’ long by 66’ wide, totaling 1.690 acres. This road, when taken from Highway 77, is the most reliable year-round access to the Bacon substation.

The current action is a simple renewal, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance.

Part II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan:

Safford District Resource Management Plan (RMP), Final Environmental Impact Statement (August 1991), and partial Records of Decision approved September 1992 and July 1994.

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:

Lands and Realty, page 22, Land Use Authorizations: “Rights-of-way, leases and permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the decisions of this Resource Management Plan.”

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

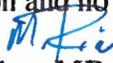
Extraordinary Circumstances Review: In accordance with 43 CFR 46.215, any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine if it meets any of the 12 Extraordinary Circumstances described. If any circumstance applies to the action or project,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

IMPORTANT: 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:	INITIALS:	DATE:
Michael Rice	<i>MR</i>	10/23/2015
Chris McLaughlin	<i>Chris McLaughlin</i>	10/23/2015
Mary Gilbert	<i>mg</i>	10/23/2015


 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST 10/23/2015
 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 renewal, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance. <div style="text-align: right;">  Preparer's Initials <u>MR</u> </div>
	X	

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(1)) apply. The project would:

(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 renewal, 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 renewal, 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 renewal, 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 renewal, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance.	Preparer's Initials <u>MR</u>
	X		

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

Yes	No	Rationale: The current action is a simple renewal, 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:

(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	Rationale: The proposed actions are not ground disturbing and the power line right-of-way has previously been surveyed and exists in areas not likely to contain any significant cultural resources. This grant renewal will have no adverse effect on any properties eligible for the National Register of Historical Places and may proceed as planned.	Preparer's Initials <u>CSM</u> <u>CM</u>
	X		

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

(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

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

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

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

(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	Rationale: The proposed actions are not ground disturbing and the power line right-of-way has previously been surveyed and exists in areas not likely to contain any significant cultural resources. This grant renewal will have no adverse effect on any properties eligible for the National Register of Historical Places and may proceed as planned.	Preparer's Initials <u>CSM</u> <u>CM</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:

(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	Rationale: The current action is a simple renewal, with no new construction and no change in ROW maintenance, and will not contribute to the establishment or spread of noxious weeds and non-native invasive species.
	X	

Preparer's Initials MG

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 and no additional mitigation is proposed.

AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL:  DATE: 12-21-15

NAME: Thomas Schell

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.

Bacon Substation Access Road Right-of-Way

AZA-16438

1158' x 66' = 1.690 acres

Location



Bacon Substation Access Road Right-of-Way

AZA-16438

1158' x 66' = 1.690 acres

Area Map



Bacon Substation Access Road Right-of-Way

AZA-16438

1158' x 66' = 1.690 acres

Close-up



Bacon Substation Access Road Right-of-Way

AZA-16438

1158' x 66' = 1.690 acres

Access road heading south

