



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mojave NPres
Date: 04/06/2010

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: SUP-Extend ROW CA 3658 for Southern California Edison Company
Project Number: 10-moja-019/PEPC 30312

Project Description:

The NPS Pacific West Regional Office, Lands Division, is processing SCE's application for a right-of-way (ROW) permit for a transmission line previously granted by the Bureau of Land Management (CA 3658). The BLM grant expired February 9, 2009. The National Park Service is converting this right-of-way over to an NPS ROW permit. Until that process is completed, Southern California Edison Company needs to maintain and repair its transmission line to the Federal Aviation Vortac site. This right-of-way permits a 16 kV transmission line from Goffs to Lanfair parallel to Lanfair-Ivanpah road. The ROW within Mojave National Preserve totals 9.07 miles, or 28 acres that includes a 25' width (12.5' to either side of the centerline, for guys and anchors 10' width and 5' beyond the ends of the anchors). It traverses desert tortoise critical habitat; SCE has a biological opinion for Minor Electrical Utility Actions in Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, dated January 13, 1994.

This is one of three rights-of-way held by SCE that are expiring or have expired in 2009, 2010 or 2011.

Project Location:

Location

County: Sna Bernardino

State: CA

District: Lanfair

Section: parallel to Lanfair-Ivanpah road

Geo. Marker:

Other:

Mitigation(s):

- Assess charges for monitoring consistent with linear utility rights-of-way. The Chief Ranger should provide a monitoring schedule to be carried out by field LE rangers -- e.g., number of hours per month, per quarter, or per year.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

A.3 Reissuance/renewal of permits, rights-of-way or easements not involving new environmental impacts.

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an interdisciplinary review of the proposed action. Reviewers supported an extension of the BLM right-of-way grant until an NPS right-of-way permit is issued to Southern California Edison for the transmission line in question. The NPS special use permit will allow a continuation of BLM grant CA 3658 and all amendments associated with this grant; it will expire upon the issuance of an NPS right-of-way permit or five years, whichever comes first. The NPS will recover costs associated with monitoring of this right-of-way for the duration of the special use permit. Reviewers did not identify any significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed action. It is, therefore, concluded that impairment will not occur as a result of a temporary extension of BLM right-of-way grant CA 3658. A special use permit may be issued to Southern California Edison in accordance with this categorical exclusion.

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On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent/

DENNIS SCHRAMM/

Date:

4-8-10

NPS Contact Person:

DANETTE WOO/

Title:

Environmental Compliance Specialist

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