



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: SUP-Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, Repairs to Calnev Pipeline

Project Number: 12-moja-005/PEPC 39570

Project Description:

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners (KMEP) has applied for a special use permit to conduct repairs to a 14-inch diameter petroleum products pipeline, referred to as the Calnev line. This line operates from Colton, CA to Las Vegas, NV. It traverses Mojave National Preserve south of I-15, east of Kelbaker Road. Kinder Morgan holds a BLM right-of-way grant for this pipeline on federal lands.

The 14" Calnev pipeline was recently internally inspected per KMEP and regulatory requirements, utilizing hi-resolution electronic inspection tools to detect and identify anomalous conditions on the pipeline meeting criteria set forth in the IMP and in governmental regulations. Excavation of the pipeline is required to assess, validate and remediate anomalies identified in the inspection data per DOT Part 195.452 and to verify the integrity of the pipeline. The inspection program and subsequent pipeline excavations meet or exceed the regulatory requirements. Anomalies were detected at JT 49660 and JT 52890, which are located about 7 and 11 miles northeast of Baker, CA.

A typical investigation consists of an excavation of approximately 5 ft wide by 10 ft long by 5 ft deep (1.5 ft below the pipeline). Excavation will be conducted using a backhoe and hand digging. This work shall remain within the granted right-of-way. Approximately four passenger trucks with trailers will be at the site, but will remain on the existing access road. There will be between six and eight crew members on site, including inspectors.

The purpose of the excavation is to enable crew members to visually inspect the pipeline. Once the line is uncovered, the sandblasting equipment is used to remove the pipeline's protective coating. The bare pipeline is carefully inspected and assessed. Some small electronic devices may be used at this point to assist in the evaluation. The "repair" portion of the project typically consists of simply recoating the pipe or welding a reinforcing sleeve around pipe and then recoating. Work at each location is expected to take two to three days. The pipeline will be evaluated and repaired, if needed, and backfilled. The site will be restored to its original contours.

KMEP proposes the following measures to minimize impacts at the work site: 1) Excavation would be kept to the minimum size necessary to expose, inspect, and potentially repair the pipeline. The work area, including equipment staging, will be delineated with flagging or other high visibility markings, and all construction activity will be confined to the marked area. 2) Access to the site would be restricted to existing dirt roads. 3) All food and trash debris will be disposed of in closed containers and removed from the project area at the end of each workday. 4) Construction debris will be removed and the disturbed area restored to pre-construction conditions to the extent feasible. 5) All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas shall occur at a staging location outside of the Mojave National Preserve. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur. 6) If required, a third-party desert tortoise monitor will provide awareness training and be onsite during construction to monitor the excavation. Work will be stopped upon discovery of any tortoises and NPS will be notified.

Project Locations:

Location 1

County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	northeast of Kelbaker Road	Section:	
Geo. Marker:	KMEP JT 49660 (GIS Point)	Other:	UTM 11S 594007.30m E 3908433.16m N Lat/Long 35.31469732, -115.96584534

Location 2

County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	northeast of Kelbaker Road	Section:	
Geo. Marker:	KMEP JT 52890 (GIS Point)	Other:	UTM 11S 598724.34m E 3913161.30m N Lat/Long 35.35687311, -115.91340005

Mitigation(s):

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an interdisciplinary review of the requested action. Reviewers were generally supportive and did not identify significant adverse resource impacts that might result from the proposed action. The work is to take place outside of desert tortoise active season, and outside of desert tortoise critical habitat; therefore, potential for impacts to this Federally threatened species is extremely low. The one concern of note relates to the right-of-way for the Calnev Pipeline. Bureau of Land Management right-of-way grant CAS 5597 expired 05/06/2005. The BLM may have issued a renewal for this grant, but at this time, it is not clear if the renewal covers the Calnev Pipeline on NPS lands. The National Park Service has not received any right-of-way application (form SF-299) for the portion of this pipeline that lies within Mojave National Preserve. This mitigation attempts to address both the potential lack of a current right-of-way and the need for Kinder Morgan Energy Partners to obtain an NPS right-of-way permit.

- A special use permit for the requested action must contain the following stipulation: "This permit is subject to submission of a complete Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands (SF-299), attached hereto as Attachment A, and the participation of the permittee in good faith negotiations to enter into a National Park Service Right-of-Way Permit based on the National Park Service Right-of-Way Template, attached hereto as Attachment B, on or within 60 days of the expiration of this permit."

Reviewers identified no other potentially significant adverse impacts to the natural or cultural resources of Mojave National Preserve. Therefore, a special use permit with this stipulation may be issued to Kinder Morgan Energy Partners to proceed with this action.

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):

C.15 Installation of underground utilities in previously disturbed areas having stable soils, or in an existing utility right-of-way.

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 (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Superintendent: *Louanna J. Whalen* Date: 12/7/11

NPS Contact: *Dan...* Date: 12/07/2011