



IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

Memorandum

To: Sean McCabe, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2014-015 Southern California Edison Tioga Pass 12 kV Relocation (Rhinedollar Phase II) (51492)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined the following:

- There will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- There will not be any effect on historic, cultural, or archeological resources.
- There will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

The subject proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and NHPA compliance requirements as presented above. Project plans and specifications are approved and construction and/or project implementation can commence.

For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- Due to the proximity to archeological sites in the area, SCE should obtain an ARPA permit and conduct archeological monitoring along the proposed trench within park boundaries.
- Ensure all earth moving equipment entering the park is inspected for noxious seeds and propagules. All imported fill material used shall be from an approved weed-free source. Excavated soil should not be piled on adjacent vegetation but should be piled on the roadside. The vegetation grows very slowly at this site so damage to existing vegetation should be minimized.
- Provide the park High Voltage Shop time to conduct a locate and allow a member of the park High Voltage Shop to be on-site during relocation.

Letter of Compliance Completion - Southern California Edison Tioga Pass 12 kV Relocation (Rhinedollar Phase II) - PEPC ID: 51492

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 51492.

//Don Neubacher//
Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

*The signed original of this document is on file at the
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2014-015 Southern California Edison Tioga Pass 12 kV Relocation (Rhinedollar Phase II)

PEPC Project Number: 51492

Project Description:

Southern California Edison (SCE) supplies electrical power to the Tioga Pass Entrance Station and the Tuolumne Meadows area of Yosemite National Park. The 12 kV direct burial electrical cable that supplies power to the Tioga Pass Entrance Station is corroding and may cause a risk of electrocution through an electrical fault that would use the earth as a conductor, potentially injuring park visitors and wildlife. SCE plans to abandon 13,200 feet of existing direct burial electrical cable and construct 13,000 feet of new conduit and cable system. The vast majority of this project will occur on US Forest Service Inyo National Forest administered lands along Tioga Road/Hwy 120. Only 125 feet of the proposed relocation will occur within Yosemite.

The work within Yosemite proposes to build 125 feet of new conduit and electrical cable to connect to an existing electrical vault. This vault is located 15 feet off the edge of Tioga Road, between the entrance station and the parking lot adjacent to the comfort station. The majority of the proposed construction will be located within the travel lane of westbound Tioga Road. In order to accommodate this construction there will need to be single lane closures to excavate the new trench, place conduit, backfill the trench and pull electrical cable. Significant coordination will be necessary in order to operate the entrance station during the construction period. It is anticipated there will also be some closures along Hwy 120 outside of the park. The entire project is anticipated to last 12 weeks, occurring from May till August 2014, with the Yosemite portion of the work lasting no more than two weeks.

Project Locations:

Tuolumne County, CA

Mitigations:

- Due to the proximity to archeological sites in the area, SCE should obtain an ARPA permit and conduct archeological monitoring along the proposed trench within park boundaries.
- Ensure all earth moving equipment entering the park is inspected for noxious seeds and propagules. All imported fill material used shall be from an approved weed-free source. Excavated soil should not be piled on adjacent vegetation but should be piled on the roadside. The vegetation grows very slowly at this site so damage to existing vegetation should be minimized.
- Provide the park High Voltage Shop time to conduct a locate and allow a member of the park High Voltage Shop to be on-site during relocation.

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: //Don Neubacher// **Date:** 6/20/2014
Don L. Neubacher

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 06/16/2014

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2014-015 Southern California Edison Tioga Pass 12 kV Relocation (Rhinedollar Phase II)
PEPC Project Number: 51492
Project Type: Right-of-Way Permit (ROW)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Sean McCabe

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? No

B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		Negligible			Project involves excavating a trench that is 125 feet long, 60 inches deep and 20 inches wide.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			Temporary dust emissions during the trenching.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Construction noises will occur during the project.
5. Water quality or	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
quantity					
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		Negligible			There will be temporary lane closures at Tioga Pass Entrance Station during the two week construction period.
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			There are archeological sites within the project area. Park archeologist recommends monitoring all trenching.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		Negligible			Tioga Road Historic District; Great Sierra Wagon Road
20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources		Negligible			
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		No		
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		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
other ecologically significant or critical areas?				
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		No		
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?		No		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
(Executive Order 12898)?				
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)?		No		
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)?		No		

D. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
- 1.A. Did personnel conduct a site visit? No
2. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No
3. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? No
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? No
5. Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project) No

E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Michael Gauthier	Chief of Staff
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Zach Allely	Acting Chief of Administration Management
Paul Laymon	Acting Chief of Facilities Management
Linda C. Mazzu	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Kris Kirby	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Kevin Killian	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection

Sean McCabe Lisa Acree Renea Kennec	Project Leader Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager NEPA Specialist
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F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>6/17/14</u>
<u>//Renea Kennec// for</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Lisa Acree	<u>6/18/14</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>6/18/14</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>6/20/14</u>

The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in Yosemite National Park.



PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: June 16, 2014

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2014-015 Southern California Edison Tioga Pass 12 kV Relocation (Rhinedollar Phase II)
PEPC Project Number: 51492
Project Type: Right-of-Way Permit (ROW)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Sean McCabe

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Project involves the excavation of 125 feet, 60 inches long and 20 inches wide trench.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			There are archeological sites within the project area. Park archeologist recommends monitoring all trenching.

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		
Has a National Register form been completed?		No		
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	Yes			Great Sierra Wagon Road
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?		No		
Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			N/A	
Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?			N/A	
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
Within designated Wilderness?		No		
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: 2014-015 Southern California Edison Tioga Pass 12 kV Relocation (Rhinedollar Phase II)

Prepared by: Renea Kennec

Date Prepared: 06/16/2014

Telephone: 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 51492

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])

Tioga Road Historic District

3. **Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

No

Yes

Source or reference:

4. **Potentially Affected Resources:**

Archeological Resources Notes: These are individual archeological sites.

Cultural Landscapes Affected:

Name and numbers: Tioga Road Historic District

Ethnographic Resources Affected:

Name and numbers: Resources of Cultural Significance (un-evaluated)

5. **The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)**

Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

Replace historic features/elements in kind

Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment

(inc. terrain)

Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric)

_____ to a historic setting or cultural landscape

No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

Yes Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

_____ Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting,
No landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

_____ Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or
No structures)

_____ Other (please
 specify): _____

6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

Anthropologist
 Name: Laura Kim
 Date: 06/10/2014

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance

Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties
 Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

Archeologist
 Name: Sonny Montague
 Date: 06/05/2014

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance

Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties
 Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Contractor will conduct archeological monitoring within the park following Yosemite Archeology Office protocols, inform the park archeologist of findings following the fieldwork, and provide a copy of the summary report to the Archeology Office.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

Historical Landscape Architect
 Name: Kevin McCardle
 Date: 06/03/2014

Assessment of Effect Form - Southern California Edison Tioga Pass 12 kV Relocation (Rhinedollar Phase II) - PEPC ID: 51492

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

No Potential to Cause Effects
 No Historic Properties Affected
 No Adverse Effect
 Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION
Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

B. STREAMLINED REVIEW UNDER THE 2008 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria
(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.
Specify plan/EA/EIS:

D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

1999 Programmatic Agreement

E. COMBINED NEPA/NHPA Document

Documentation is required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD has been developed and used so as also to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6

G. Memo to SHPO/THPO

H. Memo to ACHP

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

4. Stipulations and Conditions:

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:

**Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:
(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)**

- **Assessment of Effect - Due to the proximity to archeological sites in the area, SCE should obtain an ARPA permit and conduct archeological monitoring along the proposed trench within park boundaries.**

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Acting Historic Preservation Officer:

Kimball

Koch //Kimball Koch// **Date:** 6/18/2014

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.








Superintendent: //Don Neubacher// **Date:** 6/19/14

Don L. Neubacher

*The signed original of this document is on file at the
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*

SCE Grid Reliability and Maintenance Program (GRM)
Rhinedollar 12kV Ph II Project

Legend

-  Existing BURD Switch
-  Install Pad
-  Install Pull Box
-  Remove BURD Switch
-  Foot Access BURD Removal
-  ABDN UG Cable
-  Trench/Install UG Cable

Issued For: Inyo National Forest

Date: May 10, 2013

Prepared By: Nathan Gerrells

Project Number: TD681388

Index Map



Contains Transmission Information Distribution limited to FERC Standards of Conduct

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Contains Critical Electric Infrastructure Information

If any questions contact Corporate Security (27875) for handling/storage requirements.

Projection: NAD 83 UTM Zone 11

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SCE Grid Reliability and Maintenance Program (GRM)
Rhinedollar 12kV Ph II Project

Legend

- Existing BURD Switch
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Page 5 of 11

Issued For: Inyo National Forest
Date: May 10, 2013
Prepared By: Nathan Gerrells
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Index Map



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