



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** Replace Failing Non-Sustainable Utilities for Big Springs CCC Cabins and Lodge

**PEPC Project Number:** 56588

**Description of Action (Project Description):**

The project site is in the Southern portion of the Park, at the Big Springs Cabins and Lodge. The project consists of replacing the failing utility infrastructure within the Big Spring District that serves the concession rental cabins and lodge. The electrical and utility systems will be rehabilitated. The existing overhead electrical lines will be placed underground. The design addresses placing the utility systems within a common corridor to minimize impacts to resources and the visitor visual experience.

Site disturbance, including earthwork and clearing of vegetation, is limited to 40 feet beyond building perimeters; 10 feet beyond surface walkways, patios, surface parking, and utilities less than 12 inches in diameter; 15 feet beyond primary roadway curbs and main utility branch trenches; and 25 feet beyond constructed areas with permeable surfaces (such as pervious paving areas, storm water detention facilities, and fields) that require additional staging areas in order to limit compaction in the constructed area.

Driveways, walkways, and entrances serving premises will be kept clear and available to park staff and emergency vehicles at all times. Such areas will not be used for parking or storage of materials.

Tree removal operations will be restricted to November 1st to April 1st. Disturbed areas will be restored to preconstruction conditions.

Construction schedule will be sequenced to minimize disruption to Park employees and visitors and prevents all cabins from being shut down for work at any one time. The electrical installation will require two power outage periods for half of the site during each outage. In addition, the sanitary sewer and electrical service construction will require groups of cabins to be out of service for a period of time. Contractor will be required to develop a detailed outage sequencing plan for NPS approval.

No closure of public roads will be permitted during the project. Heavy equipment movement shall be accompanied by a flagman to control light local traffic only.

See uploaded internal documents for more specific project details.

**Project Locations:**

**Location**

**County:** Carter **State:** MO

**Mitigation(s):**

- Identify BMPs during design to limit sedimentation from soil disturbance, and protect water quality.
- Identify BMPs during design to limit disruptive sounds for visitors.

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- Contractor shall at all times conduct operations to ensure the least inconvenience to the public.
- The staging of equipment to avoid effects to the Ozark hellbender and to the prey base of listed bat species and minimizing the amount of forested habitat cleared during project activities and between November 1 and April 1.

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

**CE Justification:**

**Decision:** I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

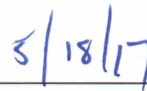
**Signature**

**Superintendent:**



Lawrence E. Johnson

**Date:**



**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
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 other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
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, 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 (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	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	