



## Letter of Compliance Completion

**To:** Josh Keyes

**From:** Michael Reynolds

**Subject:** 2017-002 NEPA and NHPA Clearance: Yosemite Valley Lodge 4100 Buildings Boiler Replacement (2018 YH) (PEPC: 82968)(PMIS: )

The Superintendent and park interdisciplinary team have reviewed the proposed project and completed an impact analysis and documentation, and have determined the following:

- There will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- There will be no adverse effect to historic properties.
- 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.

**Required Mitigations** - For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to.

- Bollards are required around the propane storage area to keep the area safe.
- A health and safety plan and accident prevention plan are required.

There are no NHPA Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations identified.

**Superintendent:**           //Michael T. Reynolds//                **Date:**           10/29/18            
Michael T. Reynolds

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



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2017-002 Yosemite Valley Lodge 4100 Buildings Boiler Replacement (2018 YH)

**PEPC Project Number:** 82968

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

This project will remove the diesel boilers at Yosemite Valley Lodge 4100 (Aspen, Dogwood, and Tamarack) and replace it with a Riello boiler and add a propane gas storage tank to the site. This process is a requirement of the Concession contract, and is meant to reduce the need for diesel air quality certifications and reduce overall air pollution in the Park.

A structurally sound, safe, and efficient source of heat is critical to the daily activity of the employees and visitors housed in these locations.

A self-contained portable boiler will be connected to the building to supply heat and hot water during the project. The existing boiler will be removed. One 1200-gallon certified storage tank will be added per the attached drawings and plumbed to the boiler building via an in ground trench. The placement of the storage tank along the service road will enable access to fill the tank and also provide the required minimum clearance from possible ignition sources. A total of 8 bollards, spaced a maximum of 4-feet apart, will be installed on the west and south side of the tank to prevent vehicle damage. Disturbance to install each bollard will be 12-inches in circumference by 2-feet deep. (No fencing).

Photo-documentation will be performed before, during and after construction by the contractor and project manager.

The installation of the feeder line will involve digging an 8-inch by 18-inch trench approximately 27 feet in length across the dirt service road east of the utility buildings. The site has been examined by J S West Propane and they have recommended a code compliant placement of one 1200 gallon storage tank and the expected underground pathway to bring the propane from the tanks to the boiler room in the building.

**Project Locations:** Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigation(s):**

- Bollards are required around the propane storage area to keep the area safe.
- A health and safety plan and accident prevention plan are required.

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

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_ *//Michael T. Reynolds//* \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 10/29/18  
Michael T. Reynolds

**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
<b>A.</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
<b>B.</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	
<b>C.</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
<b>D.</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
<b>E.</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
<b>F.</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
<b>G.</b> 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	
<b>H.</b> 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	
<b>I.</b> Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
<b>J.</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
<b>K.</b> 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	
<b>L.</b> 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	



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** Yosemite Valley Lodge 4100 Buildings Boiler Replacement (2018 YH)  
**PEPC Project Number:** 82968  
**PMIS Number:**  
**Project Type:** Equipment Replacement (EQR)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California **District, Section:** El Portal, Arch Rock  
**Project Leader:** Josh Keyes

### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

See "Categorical Exclusion Form"

### C. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	None	
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	None	
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources <i>Known and Unknown</i>	Potential	Issue: Potential loss of archaeological data due to subsurface disturbances from trenching.

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Yosemite Valley Lodge 4100 Buildings Boiler Replacement (2018 YH) - PEPC ID: 82968

<i>Subsurface Archeological Resources</i>		Impact: The location of the propane tank and associated trenching was identified to avoid impacts to known archeological resources. The chosen location of the tank will minimize linear footage of trenching to minimize potential impacts to unknown archaeological resources. The tribes did not comment on the project. No monitoring is necessary.
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	Potential	Project was included on the September 2018 tribal spreadsheet. No comments were received.
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures <i>Historic 4100 Lodging Buildings</i>	Potential	Issue: Wall penetrations and other non-historic intrusions to a historic building and district  Impact: The new tank will minimize the impacts to the historic properties by being located on the fringe of the district behind a utility shed, and because there will not be a need for wall penetrations or other disturbances to historic fabric.
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightsapes</b> Lightsapes	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety <i>Employee Safety on Service Road</i>	Potential	Issue: Service vehicles using the service road in this area  Impact: Comply with the fire code standards for propane tank safety with bollards to prevent vehicle damage to tanks.
<b>Other</b> Operational <i>Diesel Boiler Conversion</i>	Potential	Issue: Converting an old diesel boiler to propane would not result in the most efficient water heating system  Impact: It was decided that for this project the diesel boiler would not be converted. Instead, a propane boiler will replace the diesel boiler providing additional efficiency and a longer life for this action.
<b>Other</b> Other	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low-	None	

income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.		
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Socioeconomic	None	
<b>Soundscapes</b> Soundscapes	None	
<b>Viewsheds</b> Viewsheds <i>Views of Yosemite Valley from Above</i>	Potential	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience <i>Visitor Experience</i>	Potential	Issue: Visitors experiencing the historic Yosemite Lodge and the scenic Yosemite Falls should do so without modern industrial visual intrusions  Impact: Other options for locating the propane tanks were considered but dismissed as they would be visible from main visitor areas.
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	None	
<b>Water</b> Wetlands	None	
<b>Water</b> Wild and Scenic River	None	
<b>Wilderness</b> Wilderness	None	



# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

### 2. Project Description:

**Project Name:** 2017-002 Yosemite Valley Lodge 4100 Buildings Boiler Replacement (2018 YH)

**Prepared by:** Erin Davenport    **Date Prepared:** 08/28/2018    **Telephone:** 209-379-1067

**PEPC Project Number:** 82968

**County, State:** Mariposa, CA            **District, Section:** El Portal, Arch Rock

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

Area south of the Aspen, Tamarack, and Dogwood buildings of the Yosemite Lodge near the utility buildings.

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

No  
 Yes

### 4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

**Archeological Resources Affected:** No

**Property Name:** Yosemite Valley Archeological District  
**NR Status:** 1 – Listed in Register and documented

**Historical Structures/Resources Affected:** Yes

**Property Name:** Yosemite Valley Historic District  
**NR Status:** 1 – Listed in Register and documented

**Property Name:** Yosemite Lodge  
**NR Status:** Determined National-Register eligible - SHPO

**Cultural Landscapes Affected:** No

**Ethnographic Resources Affected:** No

**Ethnographic Resources Notes:** This project was on the June 2017 tribal spreadsheet for 30-day review. No comments have been received to date from the tribal partners.

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

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

- No Replace historic features/elements in kind
- No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
- No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
- Yes 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
- No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
- No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or 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:

106 Advisor  
 Name: Kimball Koch  
 Date: 09/11/2018

*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: Streamlined Review (PA)  
 Streamlined Activity:  
 14. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems

Anthropologist  
 Name: Scott Carpenter  
 Date: 09/11/2018  
 Comments: Ethnographic Overview (in process) does not identify specific resources within project area.

*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: Streamlined Review (PA)  
 Streamlined Activity:  
 14. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems



[ X ] Archeologist  
Name: Rachel Reckin  
Date: 09/11/2018

Comments: Project located within Yosemite Valley Archeological District, but no archeological sites located within project area.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [   ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_No Potential to Cause Effect   \_\_\_No Historic Properties Affected    X No  
Adverse Effect   \_\_\_Adverse Effect    X Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)  
Streamlined Activity:  
14. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems

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[ X ] Historian  
Name: Scott Carpenter  
Date: 09/11/2018

Comments: No historic buildings within project area. No historical architect review required.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [   ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_No Potential to Cause Effect   \_\_\_No Historic Properties Affected    X No  
Adverse Effect   \_\_\_Adverse Effect    X Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)  
Streamlined Activity:  
14. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems

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[ X ] Historical Landscape Architect  
Name: Kimball Koch  
Date: 09/11/2018

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [   ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_No Potential to Cause Effect   \_\_\_No Historic Properties Affected    X No  
Adverse Effect   \_\_\_Adverse Effect    x Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)  
Streamlined Activity:  
14. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems

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**No Reviews From:** Curator, Historical Architect, Other Advisor

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## 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.)

14. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems.

C. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement  
The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process  
Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

E. Memo to Project File

## 3. Consultation Information

SHPO Required: No  
SHPO Sent:  
SHPO Received:

THPO Required: Yes  
THPO Sent: September 2018  
THPO Received: No

SHPO/THPO Notes:

Advisory Council Participating: No  
Advisory Council Notes:  
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.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

**6. Assessment of Effect Notes:**

**D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:**

Kimball Koch     //Kimball Koch//     **Date:**     10/25/18    

**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:**     //Michael T. Reynolds//     **Date:**     10/29/18      
Michael T. Reynolds