



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Glenwood Springs Field Office  
50629 Highway 6 and 24  
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601  
[www.co.blm.gov](http://www.co.blm.gov)

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2009-0076-CX

### A. Background

BLM Office: Glenwood Springs Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No:  
C-9583 / 285002

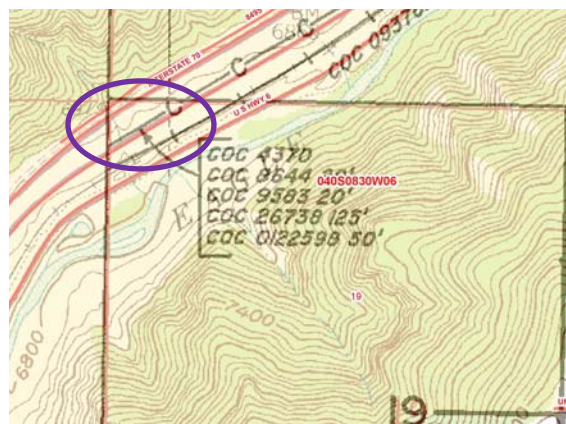
Proposed Action Title/Type: Replace 1 transmission pole with 4 new pole structures to support a regulator platform, all within existing right-of-way.

Location of Proposed Action: NW ¼ NW ¼ Section 19, T. 4 S., R. 83 W.,  
Sixth Principal Meridian, Eagle County, Colorado.

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Holy Cross Energy, has submitted an application to amend their existing Right-of-Way, C-9583. This amendment would entail replacing one wooden pole with four new wood pole structures to support a regulator platform (see attached diagram).

The construction would include the use of two boom trucks, one backhoe, one auger, one flatbed truck, and five Holy Cross Energy personnel. Work is estimated to take five days.

Additionally, the right-of-way corridor is shared with CDOT, CenturyTel of Eagle, Public Service Company of Colorado, and Colorado Ute Electric Association. The applicant has received non-objections from these current holders.





Name of Plan: Record of Decision and Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan.

Date Approved: January, 1984; revised in 1988; amended in November 1991 - Oil and Gas Leasing and Development - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended Nov. 1996 - Colorado Standards and Guidelines; amended in August 1997 - Castle Peak Travel Management Plan; amended in March 1999 - Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended in November 1999 - Red Hill Plan Amendment; and amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance.

Decision Number/Page: Page 41, Utility and Communication Facility Management.

Decision Language: To respond, in a timely manner, to requests for utility and communication facility authorizations on public land while considering environmental, social, economic, and interagency concerns.

**C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the national Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E. Realty Numbers:

(12) Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.

(13) Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside of the right-of-way boundary.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

EXCLUSIONS	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. 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.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but		X

cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
7. 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.		X
8. 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.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
11. 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).		X
12. 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).		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
Cheryl Harrison	Archaeologist	Cultural and Native American Concerns
Kay Hopkins	Outdoor Recreation Planner	ACEC, VRM, WSR, Wilderness
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	T/E/S Plants, Vegetation
Brian Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, T/E/S Wildlife, Migratory Birds
Tom Fresques	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries, T/E/S Fish
Jeff O'Connell	Hydrologist	Soil, Air, Water
Mike Kinser	Rangeland Mgt Spec.	Range, Riparian, Wetlands
Isaac Pittman	Rangeland Mgt Spec.	Range
Dereck Wilson	Rangeland Mgt Spec.	Range, Invasive Plants, Noxious Weeds

REMARKS/MITIGATION (the following mitigations will be carried forward within the permit under Special Conditions:

To prevent impacts to raptors and migratory bird species, the power line shall comply with the APLIC's *Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines* publication, and the National Electric Safety Code .

Reference: Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). 2006. *Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006*. Edison Electric Institute, APLIC and the California Energy Commission. Washington, D.C. and Sacramento, CA.

Cultural/Native American Stipulation: The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires that if newly discovered cultural resources are identified during project implementation, work in that area must stop and the agency Authorized Officer notified immediately (36 CFR 800.13). The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), requires that if

inadvertent discovery of Native American Remains or Objects occurs, activity must cease in the area of discovery, a reasonable effort made to protect the item(s) discovered, and immediate notice made to the BLM Authorized Officer, as well as the appropriate Native American group(s) (IV.C.2). Notice may be followed by a 30-day delay (NAGPRA Section 3(d)). Further actions also require compliance under the provisions of NHPA and the Archaeological Resource Protection Act.

**Noxious and Invasive Plant Species Stipulation:** The applicant will monitor the project area for the presence of any noxious weeds and will be responsible for promptly controlling any noxious weeds on the Colorado State List A or B (except redstem filaree) within the right-of-way. If the applicant chooses to use herbicides as the control method on public lands, a Pesticide Use Proposal shall be submitted to the BLM and approved prior to initiating any herbicide spraying.

I considered this action and determined that it may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

**D. Signature**

Authorizing Official:  Date: 4/21/09  
Steve G. Bennett, Field Manager

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Carole Huey, Realty Specialist, Glenwood Springs Field Office, 50629 Highway 6 and 24, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601, 970-947-2804.