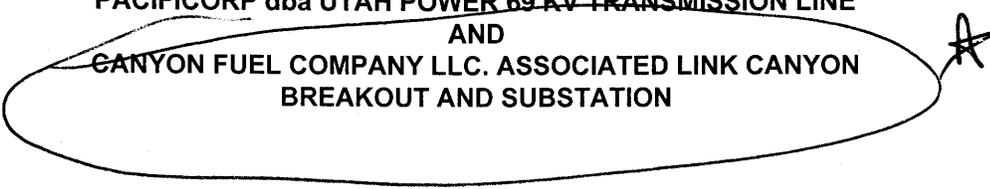


DECISION RECORD

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UT-066-98-53

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR
PACIFICORP dba UTAH POWER 69 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
AND
CANYON FUEL COMPANY LLC. ASSOCIATED LINK CANYON
BREAKOUT AND SUBSTATION**



DECISION

It is the decision of the Field Manager of the Bureau of Land Management to select alternative 2, the proposed action, development of the Link Canyon 69 kV power line, breakout and substation. It is also the decision of the Field Manager to grant a right-of-way and temporary use permit to Pacificorp to construct, operate, maintain and terminate a 69 kV powerline. The proposed action outline in the EA as well as the maintenance and operation plan would be attached to the right-of-way grant and incorporated into and made a part of the grant instrument.

Link Canyon 69 k Power Transmission Right-of-Way UTU-74346

The grant would be 50 feet in width, 25 feet on each side of a described centerline and would be approximately 24, 878 feet in length, encompassing 28.56 acres more or less. The right-of-way would be subject to stipulations outlined in regulation, and stipulations developed as a result of mitigation in the EA.

In addition a temporary use permit (TUP) would be issued in association with the right-of-way. The TUP would be 5 feet on each side of the permanent right-of-way and encompass 5.71 acres more or less. The TUP would authorize the use of public lands adjacent to the permanent right-of-way for construction purposes.

Authority for issuing the subject right-of-way and the temporary use permit is outlined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2776, 43 U.S.C 1761) and in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 2800.

MITIGATION

As noted in the EA, the maintenance and operation plan described in Chapter II was designed to minimize most impacts to resources within the project area., In addition, low impact construction and maintenance measures were incorporated into the proposed action. The following mitigation would be completed for the resources noted below.

Wildlife

By completing the proposed construction after April 15 and before December 1 winter deer and elk use in the area would not be significantly impacted.

Raptor Nest Protection

To mitigate impacts to raptor nests and utilization of the project area, projects that would monitor and benefit raptors would be conducted. These actions would include:

1. Where active raptor nests are located, construction would not occur until after August 16 as required by the San Rafael Resource Management Plan and Manti-LaSal Forest Resource Plan.
2. Creation of line of site zone of protection buffer areas around active nests and yearly monitoring of raptor use within the Link Canyon area.

MONITORING

The proposed project will be monitored by a third party compliance contractor as well as inspectors of the Bureau of Land Management. Following construction and reclamation, seeded and hand planted areas will be monitored for revegetation success. Should unsatisfactory reclamation results occur, the right-of-way holder would be required to reseed or replant bare root stock or seedlings.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The rationale to approve the proposed action was primarily based on the analysis of the environmental impacts presented in the environmental assessment as modified in this decision record. The company has incorporated a variety of measures into the proposed action to mitigate potential impacts from the project. In addition, extensive mitigation has been developed to minimize impacts to the resources. The positive impacts of approving the proposed action outweigh the environmental impacts of the proposal.

As stated under the objectives for the regulations (43 CFR 2800) governing the issuance of rights-of-way, it is the objective of the Secretary of Interior to grant rights-of-way and temporary use permits covered by the regulations to any qualified individual, business entity, or governmental entity and regulate, control and direct the use of said right-of-way on public lands. In doing so the Secretary shall protect the natural resources associated with the public lands and adjacent, private or other lands administered by a government agency and prevent unnecessary and undue environmental damage to the lands and resources.

ALTERNATIVES

Three alternatives, no action, proposed action, and an alternative location of the substation were considered and analyzed in the environmental assessment.

Under the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1) the current situation would be maintained. None of the facilities described in the proposed action would be constructed. This alternative is discussed on 10 of the environmental assessment. Alternative 3, discussed on pages 15 and 16 of the environmental assessment is exclusive to the substation location. This alternative would locate the substation approximately 250 feet east of the location proposed in alternative 2.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

During the initial scoping and preparation of the environmental assessment, the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service through its third party contractor, received input from federal, state and local agencies. A thirty (30) day public comment period was initiated on July 21, 1998. Comments will be received until August 20, 1998. Comments will be reviewed and taken into consideration. This decision may be modified in response to substantial issues or comments raised during the public comment period.

/S/ Tom Rasmussen
Acting Field Manager

10/27/00
Date

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UTU-74346
(UT-066)

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Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that the impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

A thorough analysis of the proposed action as well as two alternatives was made in the document. Scoping identified potential impacts to soils, vegetation, hydrology, wildlife, and visuals. The analysis determined that impacts would occur to the resources noted above, but that most impacts could be mitigated through design (mitigation build into the proposal). In those cases where the impacts could not be totally mitigated the impacts were not major in scope or would be of short duration.

/S/ Tom Rasmussen
Acting Field Manager

10/27/00
Date