

PRO-FONSI-13-007

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Project  
Environmental Assessment**

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Upper Colorado Region  
Provo Area Office  
Provo, Utah**

Recommended by:



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3/11/14

Date

Approved by:

  
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Area Manager

11 MAR 2014

Date

## **Introduction**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Bureau of Reclamation has conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed action to transfer the Spanish Fork Substation equipment and the Federally-owned Electrical Distribution System fixtures, within the Strawberry Valley Project Power System, to the South Utah Valley Electric Service District (District), to comply with the South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act of 2013, Public Law 113-19, which was passed by the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress on July 10, 2013. Reclamation is the lead agency for the purposes of compliance with the NEPA for this proposed action. The EA was prepared by Reclamation to address significant effects to the human environment resulting from the Proposed and No Action Alternatives.

## **Alternatives**

The EA analyzed the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative of transferring the Electric Distribution System to the District. Reclamation's decision is to implement the Proposed Action.

## **Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based upon a review of the EA and supporting documents, Reclamation has determined that implementing the Proposed Action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined at 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for this Proposed Action. This finding is based on consideration of the context and intensity as summarized here from the EA.

## **Context**

The affected locality is the Service Area of the District within Utah County. The project involves transfer of facilities, but no transfer of Reclamation administered land will occur due to the subject lands being connected to other Strawberry Valley Project features. The facilities do not have national, regional, or state-wide importance. The context is local.

## **Intensity**

The following discussion is organized around the 10 significance criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27. These criteria were incorporated into the resource analysis and issues considered in the EA.

**1. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.** The Proposed Action would impact resources as described in the EA. There were no mitigating measures to reduce impacts. There are no foreseeable short-term or long-term effects caused by the Proposed Action. No Adverse effects were identified. However, one beneficial effect would be the ability of the

District to continue to provide reliable electricity to its customers. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA are considered significant.

**2. The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety or a minority or low-income population.** The Proposed Action will have no significant impacts on public health or safety. No minority or low income community would be disproportionately affected by the proposed action because there is no environmental justice community in the affected environment.

**3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area.** There are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas that would be affected by the Proposed Action.

**4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** During the Congressional hearings on this transfer, the public had the opportunity to comment regarding the Proposed Action and its effects on resources. Based on the responses received, the effects of the Proposed Action on the quality of the human environment is not highly controversial.

**5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** There are no predicted effects on the human environment, by the Proposed Action, that are considered highly uncertain or that involve unique or unknown risks.

**6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The Proposed Action is not considered precedent setting.

**7. Whether the action is related to other actions which are individually insignificant but cumulatively significant.** Cumulative impacts are possible when the effects of the Proposed Action are added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As described in the EA, the only cumulative action was the county master plan, and the transfer is in conformance with the plan.

**8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect sites, districts, buildings, structures, and objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.** The State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with a determination of no historic properties affected.

**9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.** Although listed species are present within the county, they will not be affected by the Proposed Action because the transfer of the Electrical Distribution System and Spanish Fork Substation equipment will have no ground disturbing activity or physical impacts to the environment.

**10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, state, local, or tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment.**

The Proposed Action does not violate any Federal, state, local, or tribal law, regulation, or policy imposed for the protection of the environment. In addition, this project is consistent with applicable land management plans, policies, and programs.