

STATE OF NEVADA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

> Joe Lombardo, *Governor* James A. Settelmeyer, *Director* Jennifer L. Carr, *Administrator*

Notice of Request for Section 401 Water Quality Certification Action - Bureau of Water Quality Planning

Web Posting: 12/6/2024

Deadline for Comments: 1/17/2025

GridLiance West Core Upgrades Transmission Line Clark and Nye Counties

SWCA Environmental Consultants 8235 South Eastern Ave., Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89123

Certification Action Number NV-401-24-045

The purpose of the project is to upgrade an existing 155-mile-long single-circuit 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated appurtenances. The primary project activity that would impact Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) is the improvement of some existing roads during the construction of access road water feature crossings. Completion of the transmission line upgrades would require upgrades to existing access roads and the development of new access routes to safely access the work areas. Access roads would be improved or constructed to contain a 16-foot-wide travel surface and appropriate ditches and berms. The total disturbance width of the access roads is anticipated to be up to 24 feet, with the exception of water feature crossing locations described below. In addition to the access routes, the Project would require temporary work areas around each transmission structure, laydown areas, and pulling and tensioning sites. Construction is anticipated to begin in June 2025, and the upgraded transmission line must be in service by December 2027. This project would utilize Nationwide Permit 57 (Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities; SPK-2024-00521) administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A 401 certification (or a waiver of certification) is required for any federal license or permit that authorizes activities that may result in any discharge into waters of the United States. Nevada Division of Environmental Protection is in receipt of a complete request for certification in compliance with Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification regulations which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency promulgated in 2023, codified as 40 CFR 121.

The Administrator is evaluating whether the proposed activity will comply with applicable water quality requirements. Certification actions are valid for the duration of the federal license or permit (typically five years). Any conditions contained within the certification action become a condition of the federal license or permit.

Persons wishing to comment on the application for consideration by the Administrator in making a determination regarding the certification action should submit their comments or request a hearing in writing, emailed no later than 5:00 P.M. on 1/17/2025:

Bureau of Water Quality Planning 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001 Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249 <u>ndep401@ndep.nv.gov</u>

The request for a hearing must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted. All water quality-related comments or objections received within the thirty (30) day period will be considered in the formulation of final certification action regarding the application. If written

comments indicate a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing. A public notice of such hearing will be issued not less than thirty (30) days prior to the hearing date.

The applications, proposed permits, comments received, and other information are on file and may be copied, or copies may be obtained by writing to the above address or by contacting Zachary Carter, Bureau of Water Quality Planning, at (775) 687-9456 or ndep401@ndep.nv.gov. The public notice for this project can be viewed at the following website: https://ndep.nv.gov. The public notice for this project can be viewed at the following website: https://ndep.nv.gov/posts/category/water.

Please bring the foregoing notice to the attention of all persons interested in this matter.