

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-021-CE

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC66620

PROJECT NAME: Casual Use for Pipeline Tie-In Access

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 1 S., R. 103 W.,
Sec. 18, lot 4.

APPLICANT: Canyon Gas Resources, Inc.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action is for a one-time casual use in order to complete a surface pipeline tie-in for the 3-18-1S-103 well. The right-of-way was amended on October 27, 2003, for this surface pipeline tie-in. Due to the fact that the well pad was moved just enough that the welding trucks could not reach the tie-in point, a one-time casual use route had to be found. The welding trucks only have 50 feet of line which leaves them short of the tie-in point.

Casual use is going to be allowed for the use of a side-boom cat to haul a welding unit into the tie-in point on an existing transportation line. All other traffic into this point will be by foot—no other vehicle traffic will be allowed along the route for the surface pipeline from the well pad to the tie-in point. No blading will be allowed along the route. The side-boom will make one pass in, and then out when the welding is finished. All supplies and other equipment will be packed in by hand. When the side-boom comes back out, it will pull any trees knocked down during passage back onto the route in order to obliterate any indication of passage. The route will be reclaimed and the access of the well pad will be block with debris from the well pad clearance in order to discourage any vehicular traffic of any sort along the surface pipeline route.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-29 thru 2-52

Decision Language: “To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values.”

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4, Number: E.(20). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exception	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
2. Have adverse effects 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, floodplains; national monuments; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		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. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.		X
8. Have adverse effects on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Have the potential to violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X

Exception	YES	NO
10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
11. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
12. Significantly, 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.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The proposed action was presented to, and reviewed by the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on December 2, 2003.

Date

A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office.

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: N/A

Native American Religious Concerns: N/A

Threatened and Endangered Species: N/A

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional): BLM will check for compliance as soon as construction is completed, weather permitting, but definitely first thing in the spring when the ground is dry enough to access the site.

NAME OF PREPARER: Penny Brown


NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:



DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CER and have decided to implement the proposed action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:


Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

12/2/03