

CHAPTER TWO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Introduction

The chapter describes QGM's proposed route change to the 611 Pipeline and other condensate gathering system modifications (the Proposed Action) and reasonable alternatives developed by the BLM. The Proposed Action and project alternatives developed by the BLM are based on QGM's submission of a revised Plan of Development (WYW-146051) that modifies the route of the condensate pipeline previously approved in the Questar Year-Round Drilling Proposal Decision Record (BLM, 2004a). In addition, QGM's Proposed Action includes other modifications to the Questar Year-Round Drilling Proposal Decision Record (BLM, 2004a) which are based on requests by QGM and Questar. Some of the modifications have been previously analyzed under NEPA in the right-of-way grants and will be included in this impact analysis only under the cumulative analysis. Other components which have not been previously analyzed under NEPA will be analyzed in this EA as parts of the Proposed Action. Most of the other modifications are to gathering system components within the PAPA and are a result of inspection and enforcement issues which require changes to QGM and Questar's systems to ensure accurate measurement of gas for royalty purposes, or are contingencies for operations in emergency situations.

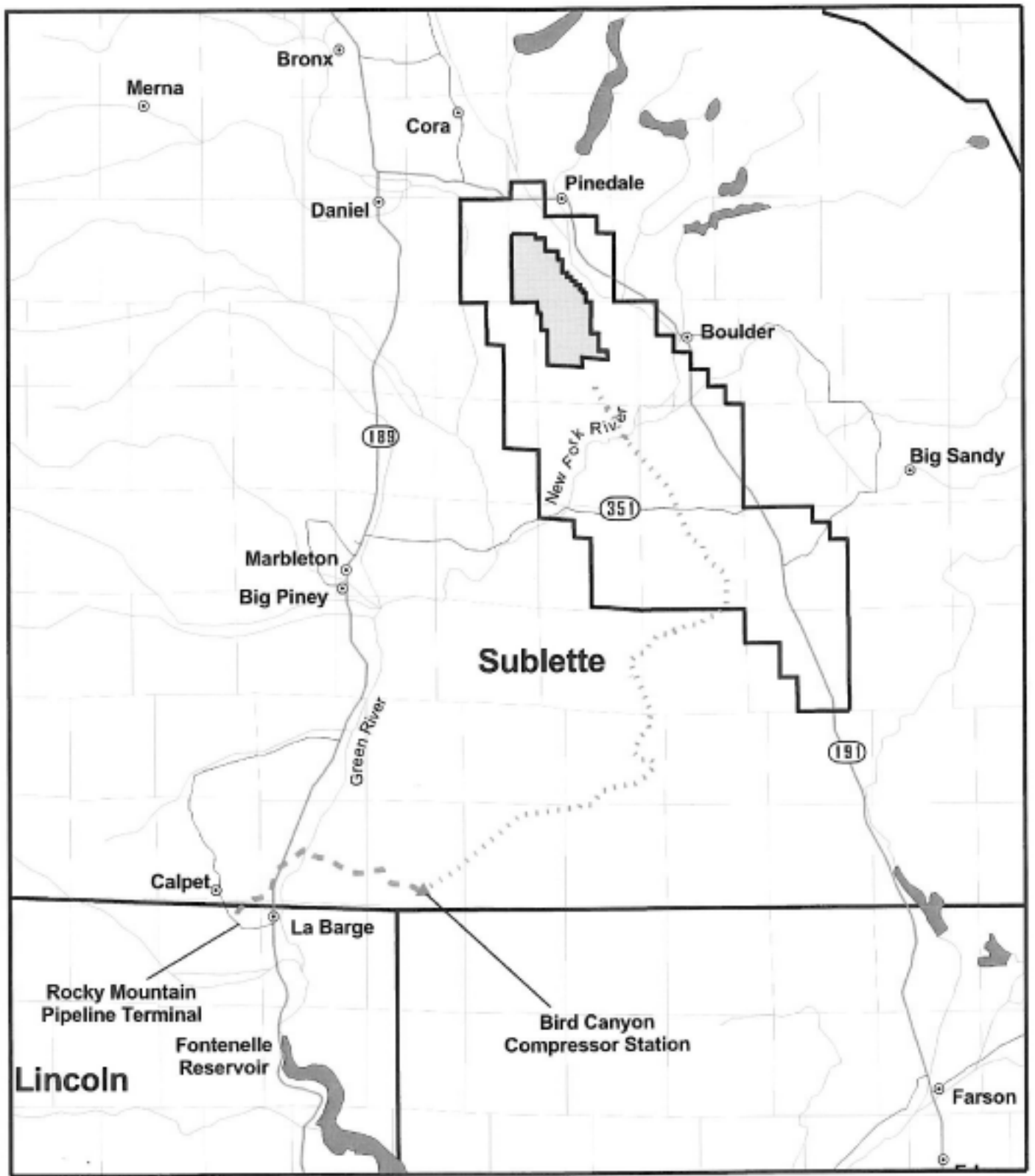
2.2 Scoping, Consultation and Coordination

BLM has solicited public involvement in its evaluation of the Proposed Action through public announcements and by making the scoping notice available to the public. The public has been provided opportunity to submit comments and recommendations by mail, over the telephone, by e-mail or in person. BLM has not received any responses from other regulatory agencies, interested groups or the public regarding the Proposed Action and/or the scope of the analysis contained in this EA.

2.3 Project Location

In this proposal, QGM is applying for a right-of-way grant to construct 14.4 miles of condensate pipeline from the Bird Canyon Compressor Station in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, Township 27 North, Range 111 West in Sublette County to the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Terminal in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11, Township 26 North, Range 113 West in Lincoln County. The proposed 14.4 mile-long condensate pipeline is located in west-central Wyoming in Sublette and Lincoln counties. The Town of LaBarge is located approximately 1.2 miles northeast of the pipeline terminus in Lincoln County.

Other modifications to the Questar Year-Round Drilling Proposal Decision Record (BLM, 2004a) that are included in this EA are located within the PAPA which is adjacent to the Town of Pinedale. Pinedale is located approximately 80 highway miles south of Jackson Hole and 100 miles north of Rock Springs. Other communities/settlements in the general vicinity include Cora, Daniel, Boulder, Bargerville, Marbleton and Big Piney (see Figure 2-1). Generally, the PAPA lies between U.S. Highway 191 and the Green River. The project area is dominated by sagebrush and high desert vegetation blending with riparian areas and wetlands associated with the New Fork and Green River floodplains. The sagebrush covered higher elevation area between the rivers in the northern half of the PAPA is known locally as the "Mesa".



- PINEDALE ANTICLINE PROJECT AREA (PAPA)
- QUESTAR LEASES
- PROPOSED CONDENSATE PIPELINE (46.6 miles previously analyzed)
- PROPOSED CONDENSATE PIPELINE (14.4 miles)

**GENERAL PROJECT LOCATION
QUESTAR GAS MANAGEMENT
QUESTAR YEAR-ROUND DRILLING PROPOSAL CONDENSATE PIPELINE MODIFICATION**

U.S. Highway 191 is the primary access to the PAPA and generally runs along the eastern and northern edges of Questar’s lease area. It is a primary route for tourist travel to Yellowstone and Teton National parks and Jackson Hole. U.S. Highway 189 runs west of the PAPA and State Highway 351 crosses through the southern portion of the PAPA.

Although no national forest lands are located in the PAPA, the Bridger-Teton National Forest is located west, north and east of the PAPA. At their closest, national forest lands are approximately 2.3 miles from the northern boundary of the PAPA at Fremont Lake.

2.4 QGM’s Proposed Action

2.4.1 Condensate Pipeline Modification

QGM proposes to construct a 14.4-mile long 6-inch diameter condensate pipeline and related facilities (including filters, screens, valves, pigging equipment, side taps, and metering equipment). The proposed pipeline would be buried to a minimum depth of 60 inches and would be located parallel and adjacent to existing pipelines for approximately 74 percent of its total length. In a few places, the proposed pipeline route would leave existing adjacent pipeline rights-of-way to avoid environmentally-sensitive sites or facilities.

The condensate pipeline route is shown on Figure 2-1. The pipeline would head in a westerly direction from the Bird Canyon Compressor Station in the NW ¼ of Section 34, Township 27 North, Range 111 West (Sublette County) to the LaBarge Tank Farm in the north half of Section 11, Township 26 North, Range 113 West (Lincoln County). The pipeline, from the Pinedale 4 well site in the PAPA to the Bird Canyon Compressor Station, was analyzed in the Questar Year-Round Drilling EA (BLM, 2004a).

The total length of the modified pipeline segment would be approximately 14.4 miles, of which 87.5 percent is on Federal lands administered by the BLM (see Table 2-1). Maps showing the pipeline route and landownership can be found in Appendix A.

**Table 2-1
Land Ownership for the Proposed Condensate Pipeline**

	Total	Federal	State	Private
Miles	14.4	12.6	1.1	0.7
Percent	100	87.5	7.6	4.9

The condensate pipeline would consist of 6-inch steel API 5Lx52 pipe with a maximum operating pressure of approximately 2,120 pounds per square inch gauge (psig). QGM estimates the condensate pipeline will transport 12,000 to 18,000 barrels per day.

Operating pressure would be generated by electric pumps within the NGL (natural gas liquids) Stabilizer and Water Handling Facility located at the northern end of the entire 611 Pipeline. No additional pump stations would be required under the current volume projections. Valve assemblies would be located on either side of the Green River crossing and at the southern receiver.

Liquids would be piped from each of Questar’s well pads to the Gobblers Knob Facility. The expanded facility would house a 3-phase separator to separate water, gas and condensate. Water from the 3-phase separator would be piped to on-site water storage tanks or would be pumped into an existing water gathering system. Gas from the 3-phase separator would be metered and sold. Condensate from the 3-phase separator would be pumped along the

condensate pipeline by electric-driven pumps, processed and sold. Aboveground valve assemblies would be spaced approximately every 20-miles along the condensate pipeline and on each side of major river crossings.

If there is an equipment failure or power loss at the Gobblers Knob Facility, gas would be flared. A back-up generator capable of running one pump would be installed.

Workforce Requirements and Construction Schedule. Construction of the 14.4 miles of the 611 Pipeline would begin in mid July 2005 and would proceed from west to east. QGM would notify the authorized officers of the appropriate agencies five days prior to commencing construction activities. QGM would comply with all timing stipulations for wildlife. Easements would be obtained from private landowners. Construction would be complete and the entire 611 Pipeline would be operational by November 15, 2005.

QGM expects the peak construction workforce to reach approximately 50 workers. The construction workforce would commute daily from surrounding communities in the Rock Springs and Pinedale areas.

Design. The design and engineering of the condensate pipeline would be completed by QGM personnel or its contractors in accordance with safe and proven engineering practices. Pipeline plans and specifications, alignment sheets, road profiles, cross sections, site-specific details, and design drawings associated with the project would be provided to the BLM field office in Pinedale prior to issuance of the right-of-way grant.

Rights-of-Way and Permits. QGM would secure all rights-of-way and permits necessary for construction of the 14.4 pipeline prior to commencing construction. QGM is requesting Federal rights-of-way for a period of 30 years with options to renew for as long as there are marketable quantities of condensate available. QGM would conduct all activities associated with construction, operation, maintenance and abandonment of the pipeline within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.

During construction, QGM is requesting temporary use of an additional 20-foot width of construction area for a total 50-foot wide construction right-of-way for the entire length of the pipeline. Additional workspace beyond the 50-foot width would be necessary for temporary work areas at truck turn-arounds and at each road, river and pipeline crossing. Temporary extra workspace would also be required at deep draws or sidehill cuts for the storage of topsoil and subsoil. The locations of temporary extra work areas are shown on the maps in Appendix A.

Table 2-2 shows the surface disturbance associated with construction of the proposed 14.4-mile long portion of the 611 pipeline. Surface disturbance would occur on undisturbed land as well as on previously disturbed land within the proposed condensate pipeline right-of-way. Because the condensate pipeline route is adjacent to or between existing pipelines for most of its alignment, most disturbance will occur in areas previously disturbed during construction of other existing pipelines.

**Table 2-2
Condensate Pipeline Surface Disturbance Summary**

	Size	Total Construction Disturbance (acres)	Permanent Right-of-Way (acres)
Pipeline	14.4 miles	87.0	52.2
Temporary Extra Workspace	See Appendix A Maps	39.0	0.0
Total		126.0	52.2

Construction. Construction sites would be maintained in a clean and safe condition at all times and construction waste materials would be disposed of promptly in accordance with State and local regulations. Construction activities would not inhibit public use of existing roads and trails, or prevent wildlife or livestock movement.

Clearing and Grading. Prior to the start of construction, the limits of the construction right-of-way would be clearly staked. After staking, the right-of-way would be cleared of vegetation. A motor grader with a blade would be used to remove vegetation, such as sagebrush, within as much of the 50 foot right-of-way as is needed to provide a safe and level working area.

After vegetation clearing, a minimum of 6 inches of topsoil would be stripped from the trench line and any other area that needs to be graded and stockpiled on the non-working side of the construction right-of-way. Topsoil would not be mixed with trench spoil or other excavated material.

Grading would be conducted as necessary to allow the safe movement of equipment and personnel along the right-of-way. Grading would also be conducted where necessary to reduce the need to bend pipe. Grading usually requires cutting or filling and may include ripping rock close to the surface.

Equipment traffic across/through drainage channels would be limited to sloping drainage sides or to vertical banks of less than two feet. To the extent practicable, drainage crossings would be aligned perpendicular to the stream channel.

Trenching. After grading is complete, a wheel trencher would be used to dig a 2 foot wide trench, stockpiling the dirt beside the trench. In rocky areas or areas where the pipeline changes direction, an excavator (track-hoe) would be used. The trench would be excavated to a minimum depth adequate to allow for 60 inches of cover over the pipeline.

Hauling and Stringing. Once grading is complete, all construction materials would be hauled to construction sites by truck. Pipe would be strung along the right-of-way in a manner that would cause the least interference with the normal use of the land crossed by the right-of-way.

Public Road Crossings. At all public road crossings, the pipeline would be buried to a minimum of 60 inches below the bottom of the borrow trench. Public road crossing techniques would be determined by the agency responsible for maintaining the road (i.e., BLM, State, county). Roads that are not heavily used would be open cut, backfilled and compacted. Heavily traveled roads would be bored to avoid disrupting traffic. Shoe-flies (detour roads) would be constructed at road crossings to prevent disruption of use.

Bending, Welding, and Coating. A bending machine would be used to bend the pipe to fit the trench and contour of the land. All welding would be conducted in compliance with American Petroleum Institute (API) Standard 1104, "Welding of Pipelines and Related Facilities." The welds would be X rayed to insure the quality of the weld. The welded pipe string would be temporarily stored on skids until lowered into the trench.

Although the pipe would arrive at the right-of-way with a corrosion-resistant coating, additional coating would be applied to the welds and any damaged areas. Cathodic test stations would be installed at all other pipeline crossings, at road bores and approximately every mile along the pipeline. These stations would be used to test and monitor corrosion during operations.

Lowering In, Padding, and Backfilling. Side booms would be used to lower the pipe into the trench. In rocky areas, the trench would be padded with sand or soil using a padding machine, which separates rocks from satisfactory padding materials.

In steeply sloping areas such as the section where the line enters Bird Canyon, trench breakers would be installed within the trench to prevent subsurface erosion along the pipeline. Spacing of the trench breakers would be as follows:

Slope Percent	Spacing (feet)
5 -15	300
15-30	200
>30	100

After the pipe is placed in the trench, a motor grader or dozer would be used to backfill the trench. The fill within the trench would then be compacted with the grader wheels. Excavated material that cannot be placed in the trench would be disposed of in compliance with landowner and agency requirements.

Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD). QGM specifically proposes to cross the Green River utilizing HDD to prevent erosion and to minimize any increase in sediment load to the waters. In addition, crossing the Green River by HDD avoids the cultural resources site at this location. The HDD of the Green River will be done outside of the waters of the U.S. and non-isolated wetlands in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Nationwide Permit #12.

This construction technique uses drilling equipment to bore and install a pipeline beneath a surface obstruction or environmentally-sensitive area without disturbing the surface area. First, a pilot hole is bored along a pre-determined path under the area of concern. Once the pilot hole has been successfully completed, the pilot hole is enlarged by reaming out the hole in multiple passes with a reamer. After the hole has been enlarged to a diameter large enough to receive the pipe, a pre-tested section of pipe (coated with abrasion resistant coating) is pulled into the drilled and reamed hole using a bentonite slurry. This slurry helps to keep the hole open, acts as a slicking agent and also seals the drilled annulus. Once the pipe section is pulled through the drilled hole, the HDD section would be welded to pipe on both sides of the HDD.

QGM has conducted a geotechnical investigation at the Green River to determine the feasibility of crossing the Green River by HDD. This investigation consisted of three bores of varying depth below the riverbed. These bores showed geologic conditions that are very conducive to HDD with a thick clay layer approximately 28 feet below the riverbed. This zone will be the target for the HDD. With the 28 feet elevation difference the HDD would be set up and started approximately 200 feet west of the river. This procedure helps minimize the hydraulic pressure in the hole, which helps prevent inadvertent returns of drilling fluid. The HDD would be approximately 1,900 feet long and would exit on the disturbed area of Bird State 1-16 well pad.

Dirt berms will be built around the entry and exit pits. These pits will then be encircled with safety fencing. Dirt berms will be built around the base of the mud recycling system, below the shaker screens, to ensure that all of the solids that are produced are contained prior to disposal. Fuel, oil or grease that is stored on the ground will have a dirt berm built around it and will be lined with plastic liner. The equipment will be fueled on a daily basis from a fuel supplier to eliminate the need to have on-site fuel storage.

A supply of hay bales, silt fence, shovels, brooms, small and large capacity pumps, sand bags and a vacuum truck will be on-site to respond immediately to any potential environmental concerns. Spill kits will also be on-site, to insure proper containment and clean up in case of any oil spills.

Actual ground conditions and site conditions will determine what other erosion or sediment control measures will be necessary to ensure the greatest protection to waterways, wetlands and any other sensitive areas.

Fabrication/Tie-Ins. Valve assemblies, pig receivers, pig launchers, filters, strainers, side taps, and meter stations would be prefabricated off-site. Tie-in crews would be used to complete the final installation of fabricated assemblies, road crossings, and other congested areas.

Hydrostatic Testing. After the trench is backfilled, the pipeline would be pressure tested with water. The pipeline would be filled with water and pressurized to a minimum of 1.25 times the designated operating pressure for 8 hours to verify integrity. Test water would be obtained from the Green River and pumped to the pipeline for testing. QGM has obtained a permit from the Wyoming State Engineer's Office for withdrawal of water from the Green River. Prior to release, the water would be tested and processed, if necessary, to ensure it meets local, State and Federal water quality standards. A permit has also been obtained from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality/Water Quality Division (WDEQ/WQD) prior to release of the hydrostatic test water. In order to prevent scouring and erosion, test water would be discharged into energy dissipation devices, filter bags, or straw bale dewatering structures, which would be removed upon completion of testing.

A total of 120,750 gallons (0.37 acre-feet) of water will be necessary for hydrostatic testing of the 14.4-mile long pipeline segment. Testing would be performed in two segments with one water source (Green River) and two discharge point locations. These withdraw and discharge points would be located in close proximity to each other. The withdrawal point on the Green River would be located in the SW SE ¼ of Section 16, Township 27 North, Range 112 West (see Appendix A).

Dust Control. Additional water will be withdrawn from the Green River and obtained from municipal sources for dust control. The volume of water will depend on several conditions including soil type and moisture content, weather and BLM/landowner requirements.

Hazardous Materials. QGM would comply with all applicable Federal and State laws with respect to hazardous substances. Hazardous waste would not be generated during construction of the pipeline. A release of a hazardous substance, such as a leak or spill, in excess of the reportable quantity as established by 40 CFR Part 117.3, would be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, Section 102 B. No toxic substances are proposed for use in connection with construction; however, if toxic substances are necessary, their usage would comply with provisions of the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (40 CFR Part 702-799).

Appendix B provides a list of the hazardous and extremely hazardous materials, as identified in the Environmental Protection Agency Consolidated List of Chemicals Subject to Reporting under Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 and 40 CFR 355, that QGM may use during construction of the pipeline. Quantities would be limited to only the amounts needed for construction. Fuels would not be stored on location and would be provided by a vehicle that refuels and services construction equipment. Material Safety Data Sheets would be maintained by QGM for all materials used.

Fire Control. QGM would notify the authorizing officer of any fires during construction and would comply with all rules and regulations administered by the authorizing officer concerning the use, prevention, and suppression of fires on Federal lands. In the event of a fire, QGM or their contractors would initiate fire suppression actions in the work area. Suppression would continue until the fire is out or until the crew is relieved by an authorized representative of the agency on whose land the fire occurred. Heavy equipment would not be used for fire

suppression outside the right-of-way without prior approval of the authorizing officer unless there is imminent danger to life or property. QGM or their contractors would be responsible for all costs associated with the suppression of fires and the rehabilitation of fire damage resulting from their operations, employees, or contractors.

QGM would designate a representative to be in charge of fire control during pipeline construction. The fire representative would ensure that each construction crew has fire fighting tools and equipment (such as extinguishers, shovels and axes) available at all times. QGM would, at all times during construction, maintenance, and operations, require that spark arresters be maintained on internal combustion engines.

Reclamation. Initial reclamation would begin following completion of hydrostatic testing. The right-of-way would be restored in accordance with agency/landowner specifications. All disturbed areas would be re-contoured so that the disturbed area is visually consistent with the surrounding terrain. Topsoil would be evenly spread across the right-of-way. Erosion would be prevented by the use of construction diversion terraces, rip-rap, matting and water bars. No berms or mounds would be created over the backfilled trench.

QGM proposes to restore BLM lands and waters of the United States (including stream and wetland crossings) in accordance with the following stipulations:

- Certified weed-free seed would be used during re-seeding of disturbed areas;
- Adherence to permit conditions required under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Nationwide Permit #12.
- Native plant species would be used in re-seeding;
- Noxious weed control would be conducted for the life of the pipeline;
- Monitoring for noxious weeds and for the success of vegetation establishment following initial and any subsequent plantings would be conducted;
- All compacted areas would be ripped to the necessary depth to reduce compaction prior to seeding at the request of the BLM;
- Surface disturbance would be minimized during pipeline construction;
- Slope breakers would be installed on slopes following criteria presented in Figure 10 in "Surface Operating Standards for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development," DOI-BLM and USDA Forest Service, 3rd edition, January 1989 (the Gold Book);
- Water breaks would be installed on slopes following BLM and Bureau of Reclamation criteria;
- Contour furrows, water bars check dams, erosion control blankets or other appropriate BMPs (Best Management Practices) would be installed to limit conditions favorable for accelerated erosion at the request of the BLM;
- Channel cross-sections of ephemeral stream channels would be restored to pre-disturbance contours, or to a stable profile to minimize accelerated erosion and bank sloughing. Appropriate BMPs would also be utilized, as required to prevent accelerated erosion or gully formation. Appropriate BMPs would be determined in consultation with the BLM and QGM;
- Ephemeral stream crossings would be monitored during construction and following reclamation to identify and mitigate conditions of accelerated erosion within the pipeline right-of-way. Monitoring during construction would ensure that appropriate BMPs are

implemented, as necessary, to prevent accelerated erosion or the potential hazard of gully erosion. Monitoring would continue until the agencies determine disturbed areas have been stabilized and an adequate percent cover density of native vegetation has been established; and

- Reclamation must be completed within one growing season after recontouring and backfilling of completion of surface disturbance. Successful reclamation would include less than 2 percent weeds and at least 85 percent of original cover at a minimum.

All disturbed areas along the pipeline right-of-way would be seeded according to BLM specifications, including components of the seed mixture, application rate and application technique. Where applicable, seed would be planted using a drill or Trax drill. Prior to seeding, an appropriate seedbed would be prepared that would be rough enough to reduce runoff and promote infiltration. In unsuitable areas, the seed would be broadcast and raked or chained to ensure sufficient soil cover (broadcast seed rates would be double that of the drilled seed rate), or hydroseeded, or other applicable methodologies may be used, per BLM specifications. A typical upland seed mixture is shown in Table 2-3, though BLM may specify a different seed mixture based on site-specific conditions.

**Table 2-3
Typical Upland Seed Mixture**

Species	Variety	Drill Seeding Rate lbs/acre pure live seed (PLS)
Western Wheatgrass (<i>pascopyrum smithii</i>)	Rosanna	4
Sandberg bluegrass (<i>Poa sandbergii</i>)		1
Thickspike Wheatgrass (<i>Elymus lanceolatus</i>)	Critana	4
Indian Ricegrass (<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>)		4
Bluebunch Wheatgrass (<i>Agropyron Spicatum</i>)		2
Winterfat (<i>Krascheninnikovi lanata</i>)		2
Fourwing Saltbush (<i>Atriplex canescens</i>)		2
Total		19

QGM would comply with all Federal and State laws for herbicide uses and limitations imposed by the authorizing officer. Prior to using herbicides, QGM would obtain written approval from the authorized officer of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, the pest(s) to be controlled, the application methods, the storage locations, the container disposal protocol, and any other information deemed necessary by the authorized officer.

Operation and Maintenance. QGM would conduct all activities associated with operations, maintenance and abandonment of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way. All permanent aboveground facilities, piping, and valves would be painted a non-contrasting color harmonious with the surrounding landscape (Shale Green unless otherwise specified by the BLM on a case-by-case basis).

The pipeline would be routinely patrolled and inspected by foot or vehicle from roads, the permanent right-of-way, and by aircraft to check for problems such as right-of-way conditions such as erosion, encroachment on the right-of-way, and any other situation that could cause a safety hazard or require preventive maintenance. If damage should occur to the pipe from external sources, repair or replacement of the portion of the pipeline may be necessary.

QGM would be responsible for weed control on the disturbed areas within the established limits of the right-of-way. QGM would coordinate with the authorized officer of the appropriate regulatory authority or local authorities to develop acceptable weed control methods for the disturbed areas within the right-of-way limits. Before using pesticides, including use in emergency situations, QGM would obtain written approval of its plan detailing the type and quantity of material to be used, pests to be controlled, method of application, location of storage, disposal of containers, and any other information deemed necessary by the regulatory agency. If pesticides were required, QGM would comply with all applicable Federal and State laws. Pesticides would be used in accordance with registered uses and within limitations imposed by the appropriate regulatory authority.

Abandonment. Prior to abandonment, QGM would obtain authorization from the appropriate regulatory agency. BLM would determine whether the pipeline and all aboveground pipeline facilities are removed and unsalvageable materials disposed of at approved sites or abandoned in place. Re-grading and revegetation of disturbed land areas would be completed where necessary.

2.4.2 Other Gathering System Modifications Included in the Proposed Action

In addition to the 611 Pipeline, QGM and Questar are proposing other modifications to the Questar Year-Round Drilling Proposal Decision Record (BLM, 2004a) that have not been previously analyzed under NEPA and therefore are included in this Proposed Action. These components include:

Power Line to Stewart Point 16-18 CDP (WYW-162828). As part of this Proposed Action, PacifiCorp proposes to construct an underground 25 kV three-phase distribution line. The distribution line will provide power to the previously analyzed generator at the Stewart Point 16-18 CDP site (see Section 2.4.3, below). The requested right-of-way is approximately 630 feet in length and 20 feet in width, being 10 feet each side of centerline. All of the line will be located on public land, a portion of which is within existing BLM rights-of-way. The proposed power line is located in Section 18, Township 33 North, Range 109 West and is within the PAPA. Total disturbance for the power line is approximately 0.29 acres.

Connecting Pipelines (WYW-16280). QGM is proposing to construct ten parallel pipelines to connect the new NGL Stabilizer and Water Handling Facilities with the existing Gobblers Knob Compressor Station. The proposed new pipelines will transmit natural gas, produced water, compressed air, and condensate between the two facilities. The requested permanent right-of-way will be 180 feet long, 50 feet wide and cross an existing road. It will be located entirely within the W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 2, Township 31 North, Range 109 West. The total permanent right-of-way requested is 0.21 acres. A total of 0.11 acres of temporary right-of-way is requested for construction of a temporary shoe-fly road. The northern 108 feet of the permanent right-of-way is within previously disturbed land while the southern 72 feet will be located in previously undisturbed land.

Power Line from Gobblers Knob Compressor Station to NGL Stabilizer and Water Handling Facilities Site (WYW-162827). PacifiCorp is proposing to construct an underground 25 kV three-phase distribution line to connect the NGL Stabilizer and Water Handling Facilities Site to the Gobblers Knob Compressor Station. It will require a right-of-way approximately 1,250 feet in length and 20 feet in width with 10 feet on either side of centerline. All of this line will be located on Federal land and a portion will be within existing rights-of-way. It is located in Section 3, Township 31 North, Range 109 West and is within the PAPA. Total disturbance for this power line is 0.57 acres.

Blowdown Tanks within the PAPA. As part of the Questar Year-Round Drilling Proposal Decision Record (BLM, 2004a), and because of installation of the condensate and water gathering systems, Questar planned to remove the condensate and water storage tanks from each well pad. Questar has determined that a blowdown tank is necessary on each pad, and plan to leave one water storage tank on each pad to serve that purpose. Water tank volumes vary from 300 barrels to 540 barrels and from 8 to 9 feet in height. Under the Proposed Action, one water tank would remain on each well pad for up to two years and then would be replaced by smaller 90 barrel blowdown tanks not to exceed 6 foot in height.

Drill Rig Emissions. The Questar Year-Round Drilling Proposal Decision Record (BLM, 2004a), states that “as committed to by Questar, by January 1, 2007, all drilling rigs operating in Questar’s leasehold will be either EPA Tier II compliant or will utilize alternate fuels engines whose emissions are equivalent to Tier II engines”. Due to the lack of availability of Tier II compliant rigs, Questar is not able to implement the EPA Tier II or equivalent engines on drilling rigs until January 1, 2008.

2.5 Alternatives

BLM has developed alternatives to QGM’s modified pipeline route and other modifications. Impacts of these alternatives are addressed in detail in Chapter 4 of this EA. Other alternatives were considered but not analyzed in detail for the reasons listed in Section 2.5.2.

2.5.1 Alternatives Considered in Detail

No Action Alternative. If the No Action Alternative is implemented, BLM would deny QGM’s application to construct the 14.4-mile long condensate pipeline between the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Terminal and the Bird Canyon Compressor Station. QGM would be allowed to construct the entire 107-mile long condensate pipeline from the PAPA to the Black’s Fork Processing Plant near Granger as approved in the Questar Year-Round Drilling Proposal Decision Record (BLM, 2004a).

All three CDPs have been analyzed under NEPA and CXs have been issued (see Section 2.4.3). With those approvals, QGM has commenced construction on the CDPs even though the non-611 Pipeline components of the Proposed Action (630-foot long 25 kV distribution line, right-of-way for ten pipelines from the NGL Stabilizer and Water Handling Facility to the Gobblers Knob Compressor Station, the 1,250-foot long 25 kV distribution line, blowdown tanks on each well pad) that are integral to moving the condensate are being analyzed through this EA and could potentially not be approved.

Alternative A. Under this alternative, the winter stipulations in the PAPA ROD (BLM, 2000b) would be reapplied and year-round drilling would not be allowed within Questar’s leases. Questar proposed eliminating those winter stipulations to shorten the period necessary to develop their leases and to provide for more economically-attractive drilling rig utilization, beginning in the winter of 2004. BLM approved of the proposal in the Questar Year-Round Drilling Proposal Decision Record (BLM, 2004a) which included development of Questar’s remaining lease acreage by constructing only 9 additional well pads (using multiple wells drilled from a single pad) and drilling from 52 existing well pads. Questar maintained that those features of their proposal would only be possible with year-round drilling.

As a consequence, there would be no condensate gathering system on Questar’s lease area under Alternative A and no reason for QGM to construct any of the modification components included in the Proposed Action (630-foot 25 kV power line, right-of-way for ten pipelines from the stabilizer site to the Gobblers Knob Compressor Station, the 1,250-foot long 25 kV power

line, blowdown tanks on each well pad) or modifications previously analyzed under NEPA (Section 2.4.3).

Questar would have existing pads with multiple wells but because the condensate gathering system would not be feasible, Questar would most likely develop new well pads with only one well on each pad. Potentially, the number of new pads would be consistent with that allowed in the PAPA ROD (BLM, 2000b) and would be connected by a more extensive road network than under the Proposed Action.

2.5.2 Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

Alternative 1. BLM considered an alternative that would require Questar to drill multiple wells from one pad and construct the condensate delivery and storage system, but not allow year-round drilling within their leases. This alternative was considered but not analyzed in detail because it is not economical for Questar to implement multi-well pad drilling and install the condensate delivery system without year-round drilling.

Alternative 2. BLM also considered an alternative that would require QGM to construct the gathering system without the CDPs. This alternative was considered but not analyzed in detail because the CDPs are necessary to maintain the flow of the liquid condensate due to the elevational differences between wells north of Stewart Point and the NGL Stabilizer and Water Handling Facility near the Gobblers Knob Compressor Station. The CDPs are also designed to be emergency facilities to temporarily store condensate in case of a line break.

2.6 Modifications Previously Analyzed Under NEPA

QGM and Questar have proposed other modifications to the Questar Year-Round Drilling Proposal Decision Record (BLM, 2004a) that have been previously analyzed under NEPA and therefore are not included in the Proposed Action but will be discussed in this EA under Cumulative Impacts. QGM has submitted respective Plans of Development for these components, BLM has conducted a NEPA analysis and has issued right-of-way grants for each of the following components:

Central Delivery Points (WYW-162012 and WYW-162013). QGM proposed to construct three central delivery points (CDPs) within the PAPA to receive produced water and natural gas liquids from producing wells. One of the CDPs will be located at the existing MESA 15-06 location and will be located entirely within the Mesa 15-06 pad. A second CDP will be located at the existing Stewart Point 16-18 pad and will be located entirely within the pad. The third CDP will be located within a State section at the Mesa 15-16 pad and will be located entirely within the pad. There will be no new disturbance associated with installation of the CDPs. Impacts associated with construction and operation of the CDPs on Federal surface have been analyzed under NEPA and Categorical Exclusions (CXs) have been issued (EA-WY-100-05-178 for Mesa 15-06 CDP and EA-WY-100-05-177 for Stewart Point 16-18 CDP).

NGL Stabilizer and Water Handling Facility (WYW-160774). The Gobblers Knob Compressor Station expansion was analyzed in the Questar Year-Round Drilling Proposal EA (BLM, 2004a) and included 5.5 acres (approximately 500 feet by 500 feet). QGM has modified their plans to include a NGL Stabilizer and Water Handling Facility. This modification has been analyzed under NEPA by BLM and a DNA (Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy) was issued (WY-100-DNA-05-172). The purpose of the NGL Stabilizer is to make a “stable” condensate product that can be metered and can then be pumped to the 611 Pipeline for transport off the PAPA.

Mesa Phase IV Multi-Pipelines (WYW-162014). QGM proposes to construct several parallel pipelines within or adjacent to the existing QGM right-of-way for the Mesa 1 Pipeline. The total distance crossed by the pipelines is 6.29 miles of which the requested Federal right-of-way is 5.52 miles. Existing roads will be paralleled for most of the new right-of-way length. Installation will required approximately 33.5 acres during construction (30 foot permanent right-of-way and 20 foot temporary right-of-way). The proposed new pipelines will transmit natural gas, produced water, and condensate from gas wells located within the PAPA to downstream facilities. Impacts associated with installation of these pipelines has been previously analyzed under NEPA by BLM and an EA was issued (EA-WY-100-05-142).

16,000 Barrel Condensate Storage at LaBarge (WYW-162015). QGM is proposing to install a 16,000 barrel condensate storage tank as part of the facilities located adjacent to the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Terminal near LaBarge in the NW ¼ of Section 11, Township 26 North, Range 113 West. The purpose of this tank is to store condensate during upset conditions at the terminal. All disturbance required for this tank is included in the total disturbance required for the LACT (Lease Automatic Custody Transfer) unit (7.1 acres) and is included in the Proposed Action for the 14.4-mile long portion of the 611 Pipeline. Impacts associated with installation of the 16,000 barrel tank have been analyzed under NEPA by BLM and an EA was issued (EA-WY-100-05-176).

351 Tank Battery (WYW-159580). QGM is proposing to install a water storage facility located near Highway 351. This facility would be used for emergency purposes only in the event of an upset at the evaporation pond. If water cannot be delivered to the evaporation pond, then it will be delivered to the truck loading facility. Impacts associated with the emergency tank storage facility have been analyzed under NEPA by BLM and an EA was issued (EA-WY-100-05-176).