

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625-1129**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0040-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC044219, COC044228, COC044229A, COC044230, COC050069

PROJECT NAME: QEPM Gathering ROW amendment adding emergency shut-off equipment to compressor sites.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Moffat, County,

6th Principal Meridian, Colorado

- COC044219, Sugar Loaf, T. 12 N., R. 101 W., sec. 33, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
- COC044228, Powder Wash Musser, T. 11 N., R. 97 W., sec. 4, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
- COC044228, Powder Wash North Side, T. 12 N., R. 97 W., sec. 32, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
- COC044229A, East Hiawatha & Hiawatha Deep, T. 12 N., R. 100 W., sec. 15, lots 1, 2.
- COC044230, West Hiawatha 1 & 3, T. 12 N., R. 100 W., sec. 19, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
- COC044230, Lion Govt, T. 12 N., R. 101 W., sec. 36, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
- COC050069, Powder Wash, T. 12 N., R. 97 W., sec. 32, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

APPLICANT: QEPM Gathering 1, LLC

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: QEPM Gathering 1, LLC filed an application requesting amendments of rights-of-way grants COC044219, COC044228, COC044229A,, COC044230 and COC050069 to install emergency shut-off equipment on existing compressor sites.

QEPM proposes to install emergency shut-off equipment at existing compressor stations in the Hiawatha and Powder Wash areas. Emergency stop switches to shut down the compressors will be installed a minimum of 50' feet away from the building in the event of an emergency. The switches will allow the operators to remotely shut down the compress engines in the event that an unsafe condition exists such as a fire or gas leak.

The switches will be mounted on a 4" pipe buried 3' in the ground and extend 4' in height. The mounting post will be located 50' from the building. An 18' wide trench, 24 inches deep will be constructed from the mounting post to the building for a buried underground electrical wire from the switch to the remote operations controller panel located on the outside of the compressor building.

The construction period will last one day at each location. The workforce is expected to number 4 people. The following is a list of construction equipment proposed for the project: One back-hoe with trailer, two one ton trucks.

LAND USE PLAN (LUP) CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action was reviewed for conformance (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) with the following plan:

Name of Plan: Little Snake Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: October 2011

Results: The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP goals, objectives, and management decisions:

Allow for appropriate ROW routes and development sites, while identifying areas that will not be compatible with such use. Objectives for achieving these goals include:

- Provide access for the development of roads and trails, utilities, transmission lines, communication sites, and other uses in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Provide access for the development of oil and gas pipeline routes and other uses associated with oil and gas development in an environmentally responsible manner.

Section/Page: Section 2.17 Lands and Realty/ page RMP-52

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR Part 46.210 and qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9E (13). This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46.215 applies:

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	___	__X__
2. Have significant impacts 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	___	__X__
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	___	__X__
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental		

effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	___ <u>X</u> ___
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	___ <u>X</u> ___
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	___ <u>X</u> ___
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	___ <u>X</u> ___
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	___ <u>X</u> ___
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	___ <u>X</u> ___
10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	___ <u>X</u> ___
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	___ <u>X</u> ___
12. 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 (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	___ <u>X</u> ___

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Date</u>
Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	7/23/2014
Rangeland Mgmt Spec	T&E Plants	6/13/2014
Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animals	6/26/2014

COMPLIANCE PLAN: The ROWs will be checked for compliance with terms, conditions and stipulations on a five-year schedule. Responsibility for the compliance schedule and monitoring plan will be assigned to the Realty staff in the Little Snake Field Office. The primary inspector will be the Realty Specialist.

NAME OF PREPARER: Louise McMinn

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:

DATE:

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

This action is listed in the Department Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 11) as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 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: /s/ Timothy J Wilson
Wendy Reynolds, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 08/01/14

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Louise McMinn, Realty Specialist, Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, CO 81625, Phone (970) 826-5070.

Stipulations

1. The holder shall construct, operate, and maintain the facilities, improvements, and structures within this right-of-way in strict conformity with the plan(s) of development which was (were) approved and made part of the original grants. Any relocation, additional construction, or use that is not in accord with the approved plan(s) of development, shall not be initiated without the prior written approval of the authorized officer. A copy of the complete right-of-way grant, including all stipulations and approved plan(s) of development, shall be made available on the right-of-way area during construction, operation, and termination. Noncompliance with the above will be grounds for an immediate temporary suspension of activities if it constitutes a threat to public health and safety or the environment.

2. Any cultural and/or paleontological (fossil) resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and the authorized officer will make any decision as to proper mitigation measures after consulting with the holder.

3. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the find and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO) at (970) 826-5000. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for project activities again; and
- Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) (Federal Register Notice, Monday, December 4, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 232) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone at (970) 826-5000, and with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

4. If any vertebrate paleontological resources are discovered during operations, all operations affecting such sites shall be immediately suspended in accordance with Section 6 of Form 3100-11 and 43 CFR 3162.1 and all discoveries shall be left intact until holder has been authorized to proceed by the AO. The appropriate AO shall be notified within 48 hours of the discovery and a decision as to the preferred alternative or course of action will be rendered.

5. The grant does not relieve you of your responsibility to obtain other required federal, state, or local permits.

6. The holder(s) shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the holder(s) shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity

established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.

7. The holder of the Rights-of-Way agrees to indemnify the United States against any liability arising from the release of any hazardous substance or hazardous waste (as these terms are defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C 9601, et.seq. or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. 6901, et. seq.) on the right-of-way (unless the release or threatened release is wholly unrelated to the right-of-way holder's activity on the right-of-way). This agreement applies without regard to whether a release is caused by the holder, its agent, or unrelated third parties.

8. No hazardous materials/waste or trash shall be disposed of on the public lands. If a release does occur, it shall be reported to the Little Snake Field Office immediately (970) 826-5000. Any spills will be cleaned up to applicable standards.

9. All construction activities will be contained within the right-of-way.

10. Control of noxious weeds will be required through successful vegetation establishment and/or herbicide application. It is the responsibility of the lease operator to insure compliance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations, as well as labeling directions specific to the use of any given herbicide.

11. A Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) will be approved prior to application of herbicides and/or other pesticides on Federal surface; contact the Little Snake Field Office to obtain a PUP form to request this authorization. Submit the PUP two (2) months in advance of planned application. In the event you elect to apply herbicide or other pesticide as described and authorized on the approved PUP, you must report this use within 24 hours on Bureau of Land Management form titled Pesticide Application Record.

12. The holder shall seed all disturbed areas, using an agreed upon method suitable for the location. Seeding shall be repeated if a satisfactory stand is not obtained after the second growing season.

13. The holder is required to use the reclamation practices necessary to reclaim all disturbed areas. Reclamation will ensure surface and subsurface stability, growth of self-generating, permanent, vegetative cover and compatibility with post land use. The vegetation will be diverse and of the same seasonal growth as adjoining vegetation. Post land use will be determined by the authorized officer but normally will be the same as adjoining uses.

Final Reclamation Standard:

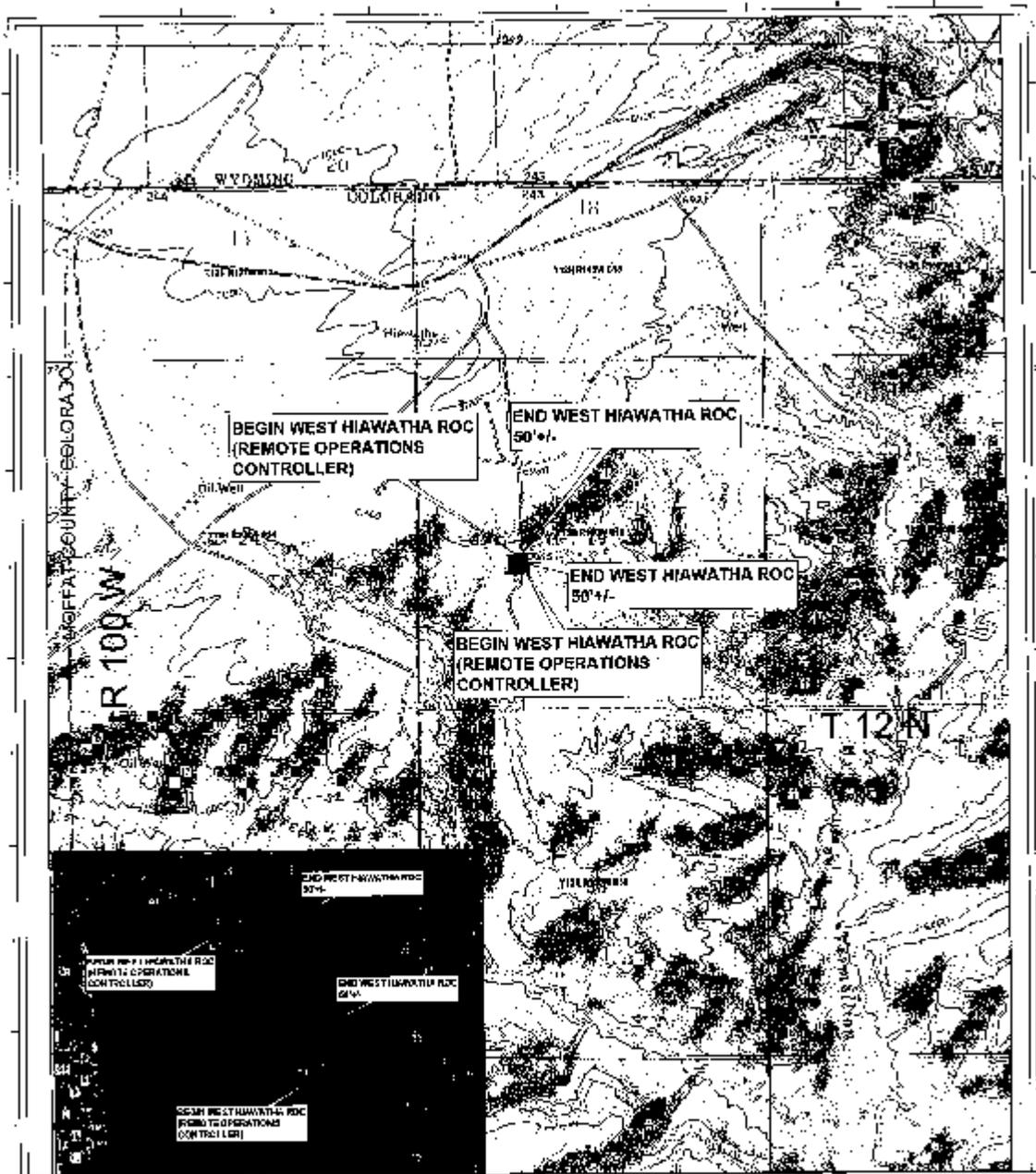
The original landform has been restored for all disturbed areas including, roads, pipelines, and utility corridors.

- A self-sustaining, vigorous, diverse, native (or otherwise approved) plant community is established on the site, with a density sufficient to control erosion and non-native plant invasion and can reestablish wildlife habitat or forage production. At a minimum, the established plant community will consist of species included in the seed mix and/or desirable species occurring in the surrounding natural vegetation. No single species will account for more than 30 percent total vegetative composition unless it is evident at higher levels in the adjacent landscape. Permanent vegetative cover will be determined successful when the basal cover of desirable perennial species is at least 80 percent of the basal cover *of the adjacent undisturbed area*. Plants must be resilient as evidenced by well-developed root systems and flowers. Shrubs must be well established and in a

“young” age class at a minimum (therefore, not comprised mainly of seedlings that may not survive until the following year).

- In agricultural areas, irrigation systems and soil conditions are reestablished in such a way as to ensure successful cultivation and harvesting of crops.
- Erosion features are equal to or less than surrounding area and erosion control is sufficient so that water naturally infiltrates into the soil and gullying, head cutting, slumping, and deep or excessive rilling (greater than 3 inches) is not observed.
- The site is free of State- or county-listed noxious weeds, debris and equipment, and contaminated soil. The final inspection for final reclamation success and approval will be subject to an interdisciplinary review.

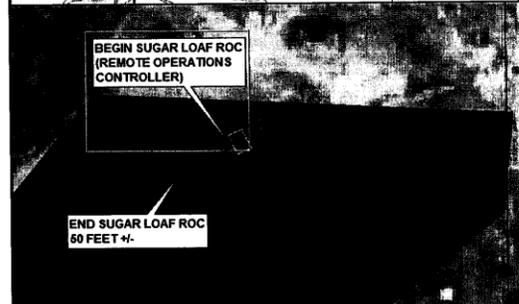
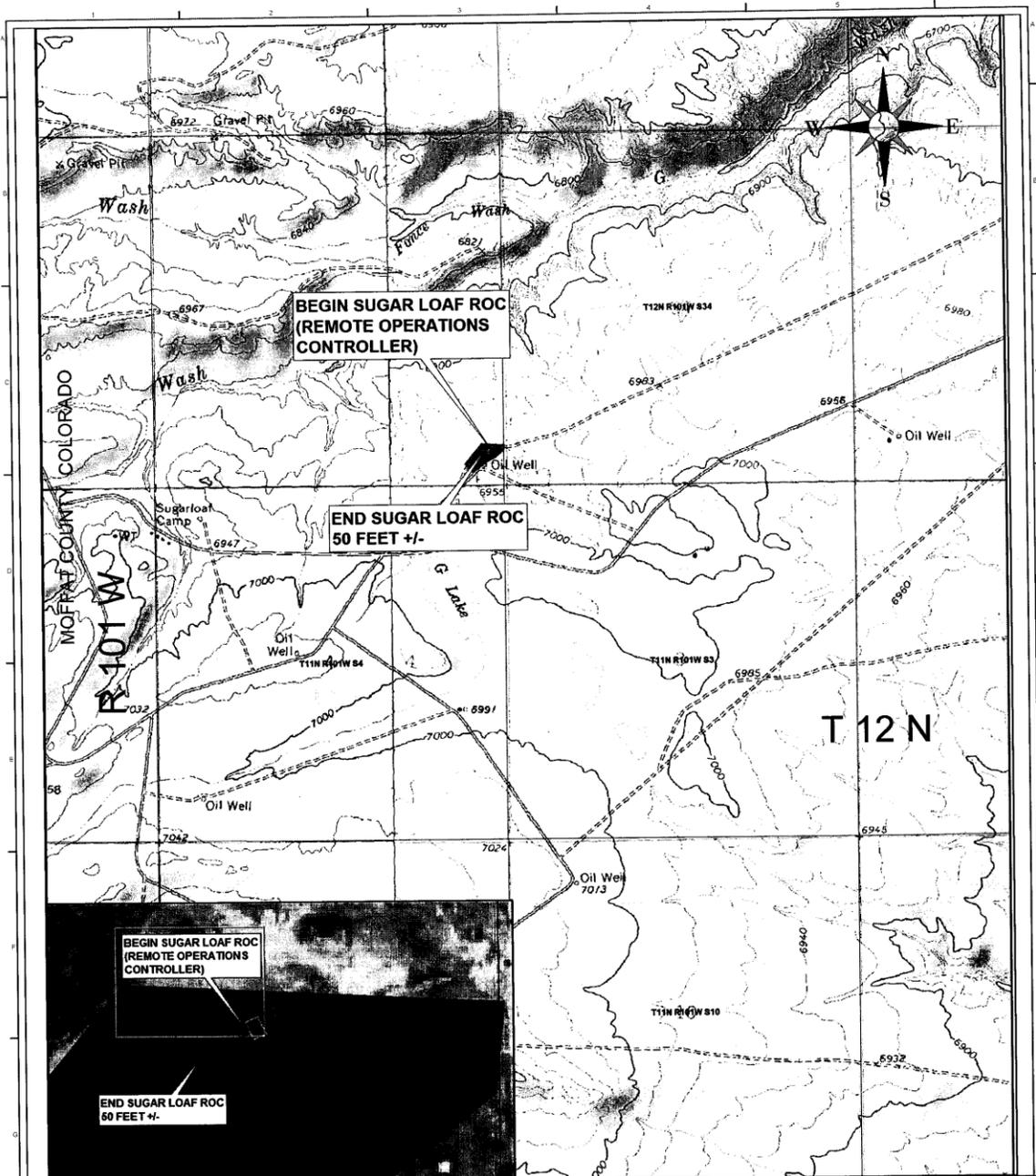
14. You must comply with all terms, conditions, and stipulations of the original grant and amendments.



The information on this map was prepared by OEP Field Services Company, Inc. (OEP) using data provided by the Moffat County Surveyors. OEP is not responsible for any errors or omissions in the data provided by the Moffat County Surveyors. OEP is not responsible for any errors or omissions in the data provided by the Moffat County Surveyors.

OEP
OEP Field Services Company
 PROJECT NO. 12-12-19-01
 DATE: 5/3/2014

SCALE: 1:24,000 1" = 2000'	PROJECT NO. 12-12-19-01	DATE: 5/3/2014	BY: JAC/ASH	PROJECT NAME: WEST HIAWATHA ROC	SHEET NO. 0
PLAN: PRINT TAG 50 FOOT +/- COUNTY: MOFFAT COUNTY, COLORADO TOWNSHIP: WEST HIAWATHA ROC CABLES RANGE: T 12 N R 100 W S 19					

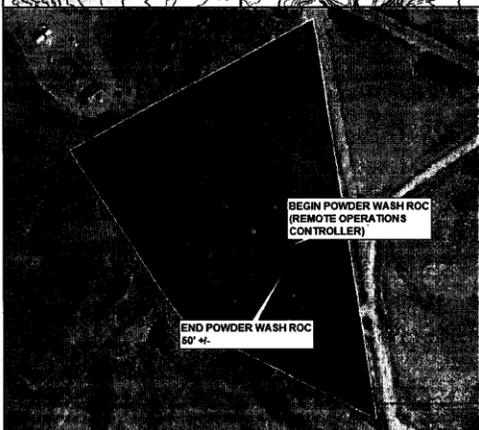
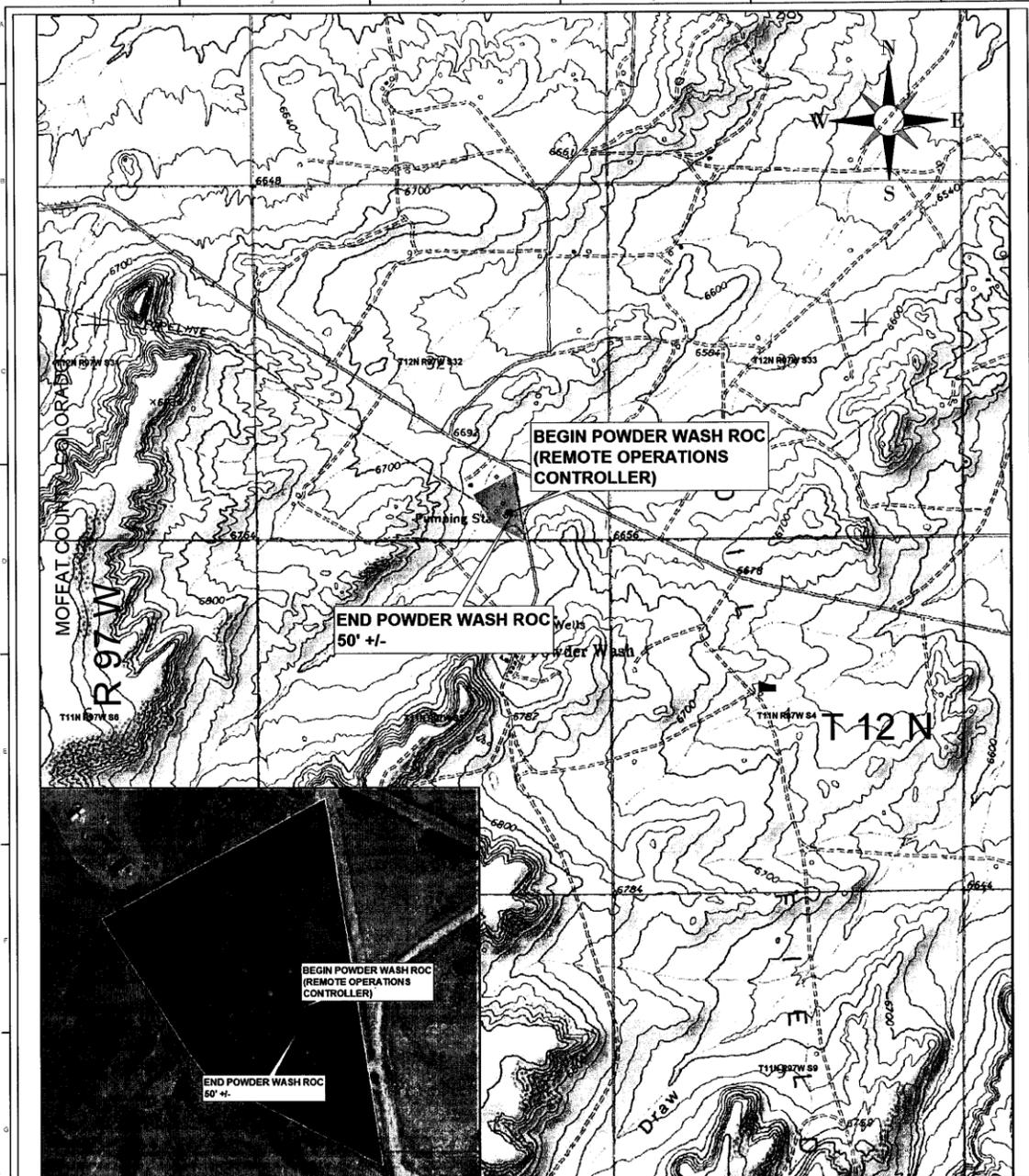


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PLANT:	PERMIT 50 FOOT +/-		
LOCATION:	MOFFAT COUNTY, COLORADO		
DWG TITLE:	SUGAR LOAF ROC CABLES		
DESCRIPTION:	T 12 N R 101 W S 33		
REFERENCE:			
PROJECT NO:	DRAWING NUMBER	SHEET	REVISION
DATE CREATED: 5/5/2014	DRAWN BY: ASH	SUGAR LOAF ROC	0

SCALE: 1:24,000 1" = 2000'

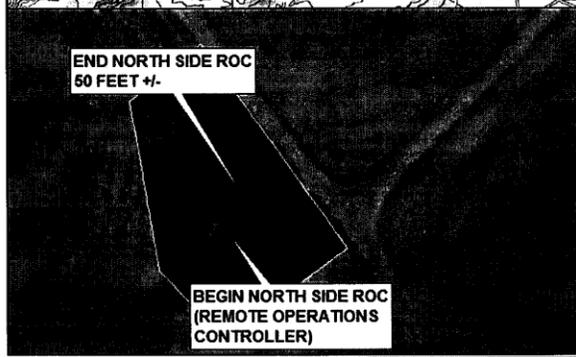
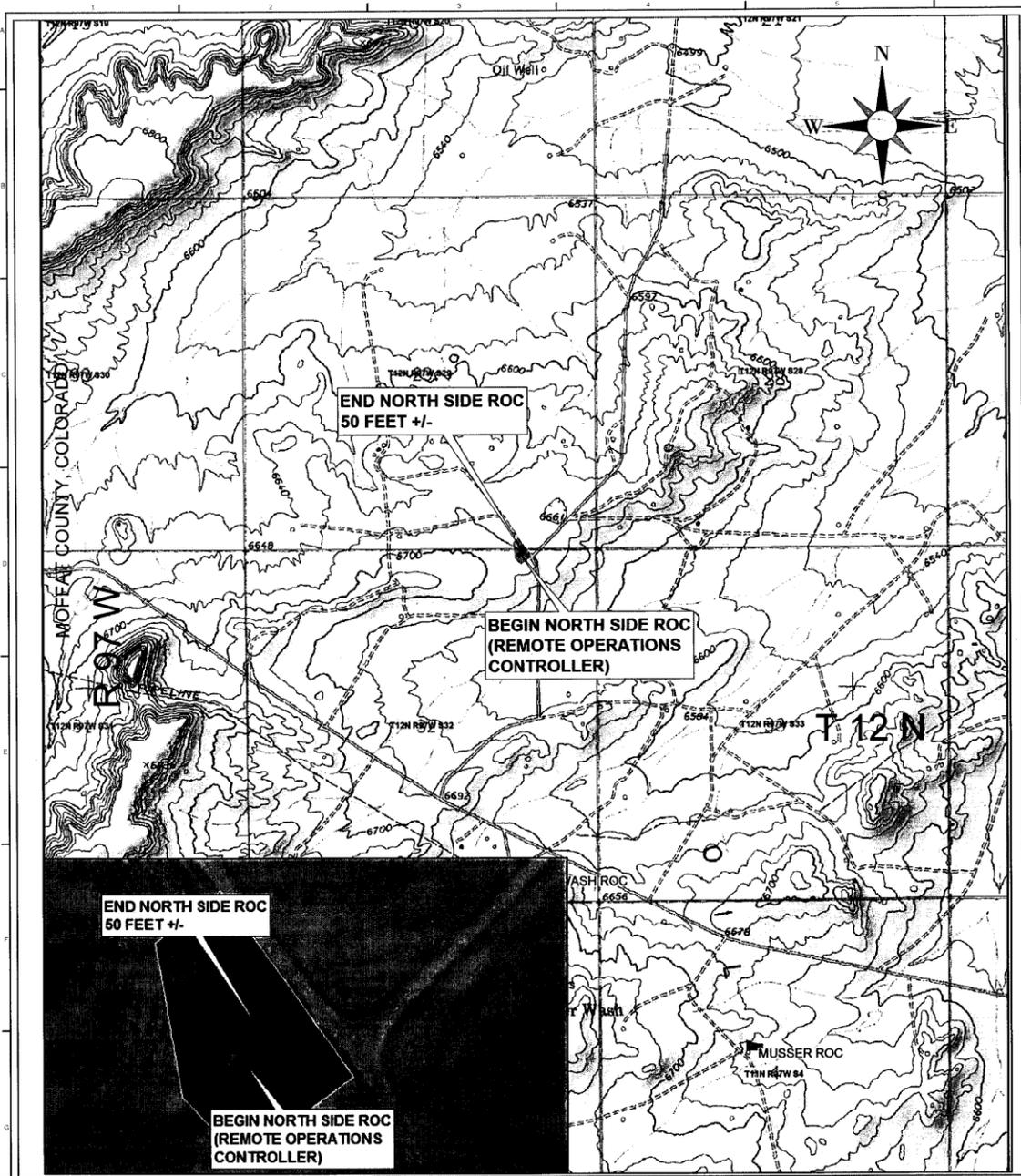


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PLANT:	PERMIT 50 FOOT +/-
LOCATION:	MOFFAT COUNTY, COLORADO
DWG TITLE:	POWDER WASH ROC CABLE
DESCRIPTION:	T 12 N R 97 W S 36
REFERENCE:	
PROJECT NO:	DRAWING NUMBER
DATE CREATED: 5/6/2014	POWDER WASH ROC
DRAWN BY: ASH	SHEET
	0
	REVISION

SCALE: 1:24,000 1" = 2000'

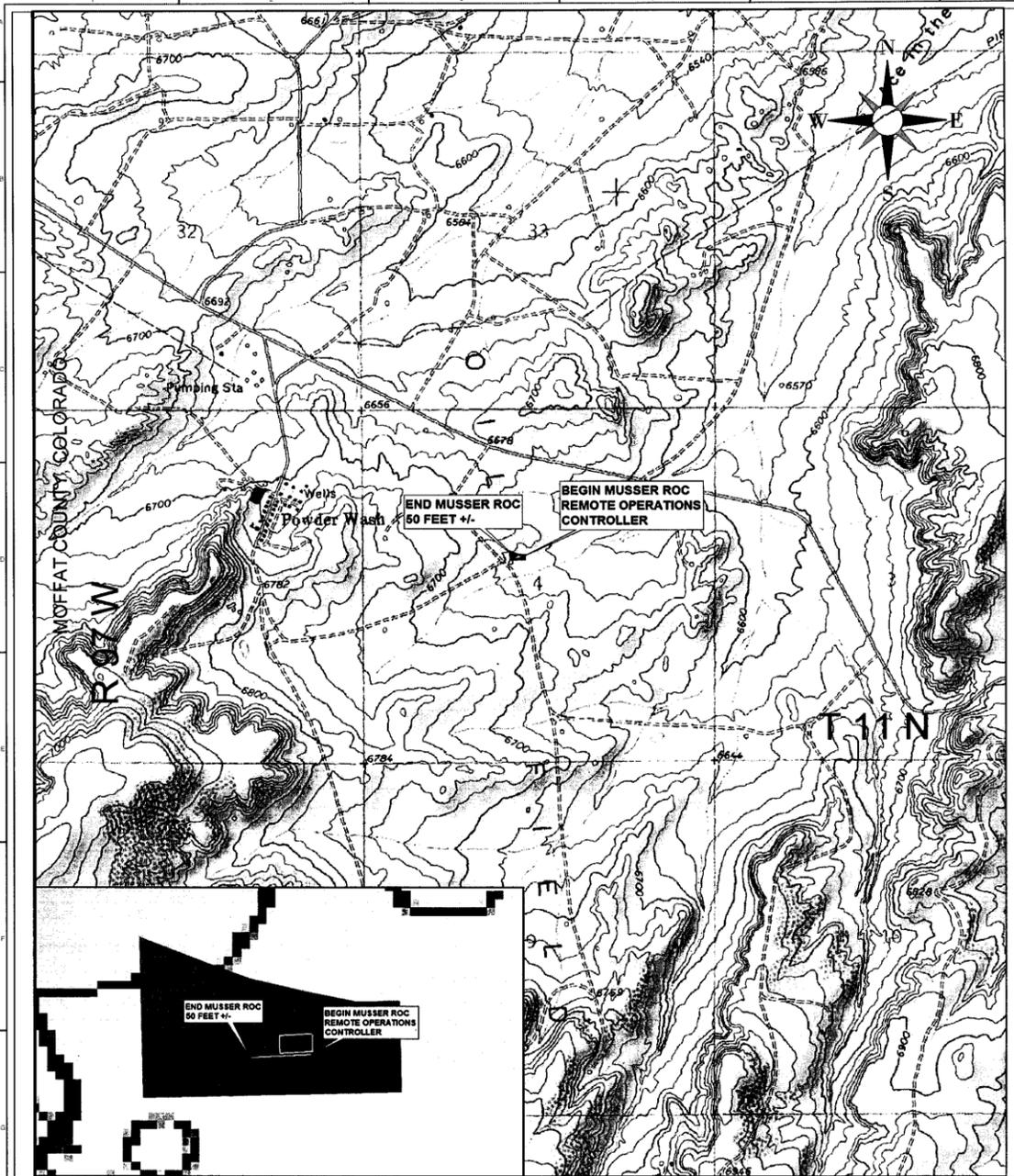


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PLANT:	PERMIT 50 FOOT +/-		
LOCATION:	MOFFAT COUNTY, COLORADO		
DWG TITLE:	NORTH SIDE ROC CABLE		
DESCRIPTION:	T 12 N R 97 W S 32		
REFERENCE:			
PROJECT NO:	DRAWING NUMBER	SHEET	REVISION
DATE CREATED: 5/9/2014	POWDER WASH ROC		0
DRAWN BY: ASH			

SCALE: 1:24,000 1" = 2000'



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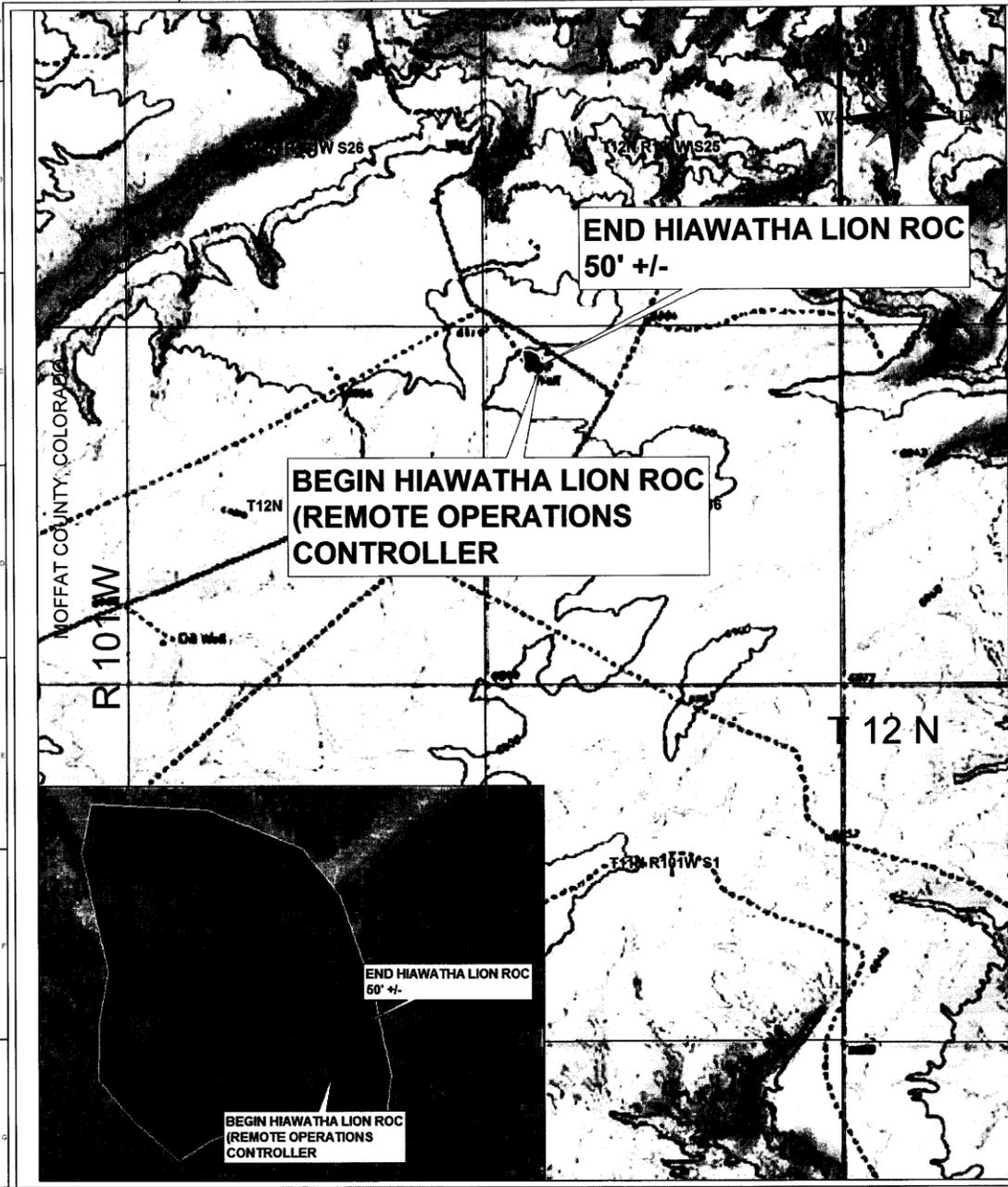


PLANT:	PERMIT 50 FEET +/-
LOCATION:	MOFFAT COUNTY, COLORADO
DWG TITLE:	MUSSER ROC CABLE
DESCRIPTION:	T 11 N R 97 W S 4
REFERENCE:	

SCALE: 1:24,000 1" = 2000'

PROJECT NO:
DATE CREATED: 4/24/2014 DRAWN BY: ASH

DRAWING NUMBER	SHEET	REVISION
MUSSER ROC		0

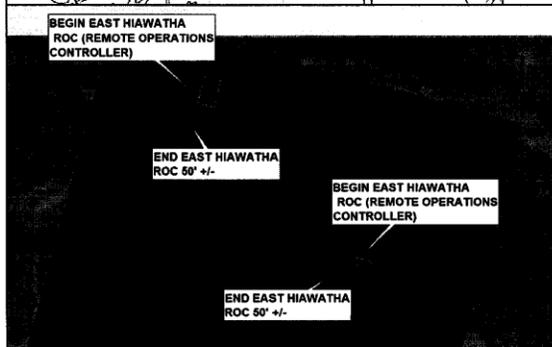
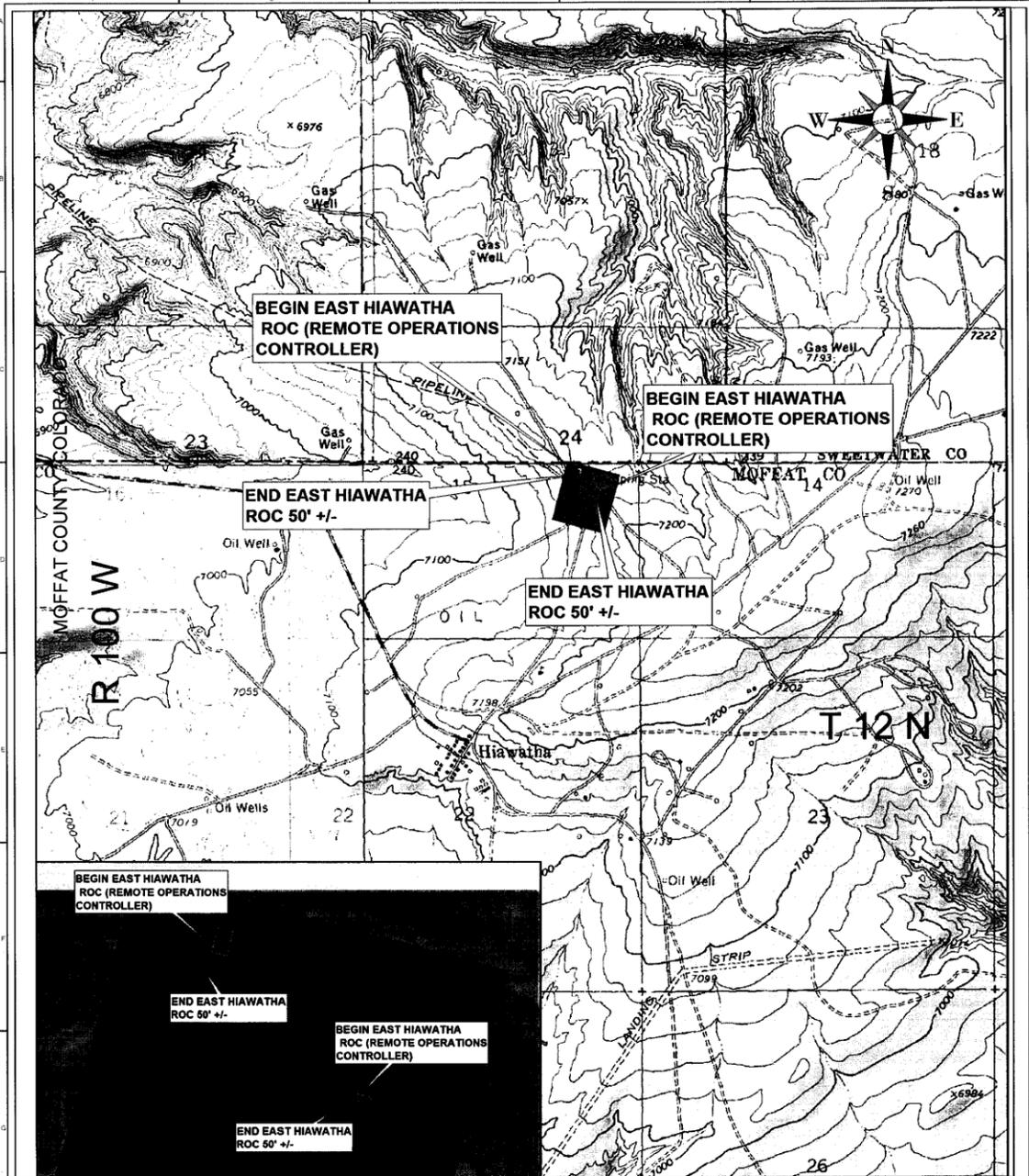


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PLANT:	PERMIT 50 FOOT +/-
LOCATION:	MOFFAT COUNTY, COLORADO
DWG TITLE:	HIAWATHA LION ROC CABLE
DESCRIPTION:	T 12 N R 101 W S 36
REFERENCE:	
PROJECT NO:	DRAWING NUMBER
DATE CREATED: 5/6/2014	DATE CREATED: 5/6/2014
DRAWN BY: ASH	DRAWN BY: ASH
	HIAWATHA LION ROC
	SHEET
	0
	REVISION
	0

SCALE: 1:24,000 1" = 2000'



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PLANT:	PERMIT TWO 50 FOOT +/-
LOCATION:	MOFFAT COUNTY, COLORADO
DWG TITLE:	EAST HIAWATHA ROC CABLES
DESCRIPTION:	T 12 N R 100 W S 15
REFERENCE:	
PROJECT NO:	DRAWING NUMBER
DATE CREATED: 5/5/2014	EAST HIAWATHA ROC
DRAWN BY: ASH	SHEET
	0
	REVISION

SCALE: 1:24,000 1" = 2000'