

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0014-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC011243

PROJECT NAME: NWP Ignacio-Sumas Pipeline Mainline Valve

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 3 S., R. 101 W.,
sec. 7, NE¼SE¼.

APPLICANT: Northwest Pipeline (NWP)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: As a result of NWP's investigation and repair project on the Ignacio-Sumas pipeline, NWP has identified that anomaly RGW 26670 at milepost 259.58 must be cut out and replaced. All work associated with the cut out and replacement will take place within the existing pipeline right-of-way (ROW) width of 50 feet and the temporary work area (100 feet wide and 400 feet long) authorized by temporary use permit COC73102-01. The location of the cut out and replacement (39.80109, -108.76513) has been identified as a good area to install a new mainline valve to aid with routine pipeline maintenance and as a location to blow down lines and shut in sections as needed. The valve assembly including risers, a man wheel, and security fencing would be located directly above the pipeline, within the existing pipeline ROW. In order to cut out and replace the pipe section, NWP will excavate and expose the pipeline at the replacement location, cut out the section, and replace it with pre-tested, coated pipe (sometimes referred to as a "pup"). After the placement pup is installed, the pipeline would be backfilled and the ROW reclaimed per the stipulations in COC73102-01. Installation of the proposed new valve would be conducted by very similar methods as the pipeline replacement. Excavation would be completed by track-hoe and by hand. There may also be several pickup-utility trucks, a welding truck, and a small crane.

All terms and conditions of the right-of-way grant and the temporary use permit will be carried forward and remain in full force and effect. NWP's maintenance on the Ignacio-Sumas pipeline was previously analyzed in CO-110-2009-221-EA.

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: Page 2-49

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 11.9, Number (E-13): “*Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary.*”

The proposed action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances described in the table below. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR 46.215, apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) 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, floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the		X

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
bureau of office.		
h) Have significant impacts 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
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) 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 October 26, 2010. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office.

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The area of the proposed new valve has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level recently (Russell 2007 Compliance Dated 3/3/2008, Peterson et al. 2009 Compliance Dated 4/8/2010) with no cultural resources identified on the surface. There is a limited potential for buried remains in the alluvium of Douglas Creek. No known cultural resources will be impacted by the project. (MRS 11/23/2010)

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken. (MRS 11/23/2010)

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: Wildlife resources and conditions were adequately addressed in the original EA. Consistent with analysis pertaining to riparian resources (prompt rehabilitation/reduced sediment yield), and in the event improved valve access is required, it is recommended that new access to the existing pipeline corridor be established near the valve site from Highway 139 (~40 meters), rather than necessitating maintenance of the 500 meters of pipeline corridor originating from the pad to the north. (EH 11/23/2010)

Special Status Plant Species: Analysis done for CO-110-2009-221-EA found that there are no plant species listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act, or plants considered sensitive by the BLM, that are known to inhabit areas potentially influenced by the proposed action. There are no new special status plant species issues or concerns that were not adequately addressed in the original EA. (TT 11/23/2010)

REFERENCES CITED:

Peterson, Marcia, Craig Smith, Lance McNeese, Zachary Nelson, and Brenda Hill
2009 A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of 85 Anomaly and Recoat Locations, Williams Northwest pipeline, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Entrix, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah (10-174-03)

Russell, Richard
2007 A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Williams Gas Pipeline Vernal District 2007 Reconditioning Project, Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado. TRC, Laramie, Wyoming. (08-22-03)

MITIGATION: All terms and conditions of right-of-way grant COC011243 and the temporary use permit COC73102-01 shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.

1. In the event improved valve access is needed, additional analysis may be required, and new access to the pipeline corridor should be established near the valve site from Highway 139 (~40 meters), rather than necessitating maintenance of 500 meters of pipeline corridor originating from the pad to the north.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after construction. Specific mitigation developed in this document and the terms and conditions of the right-of-way grant and temporary use permit will be followed. The holder will be notified of compliance related issues.

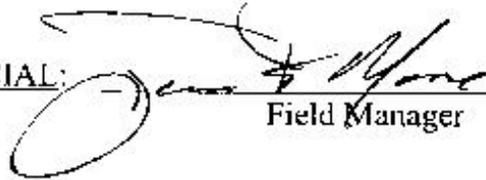
NAME OF PREPARER: Stacey Burke

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CX and have decided to approve 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 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:

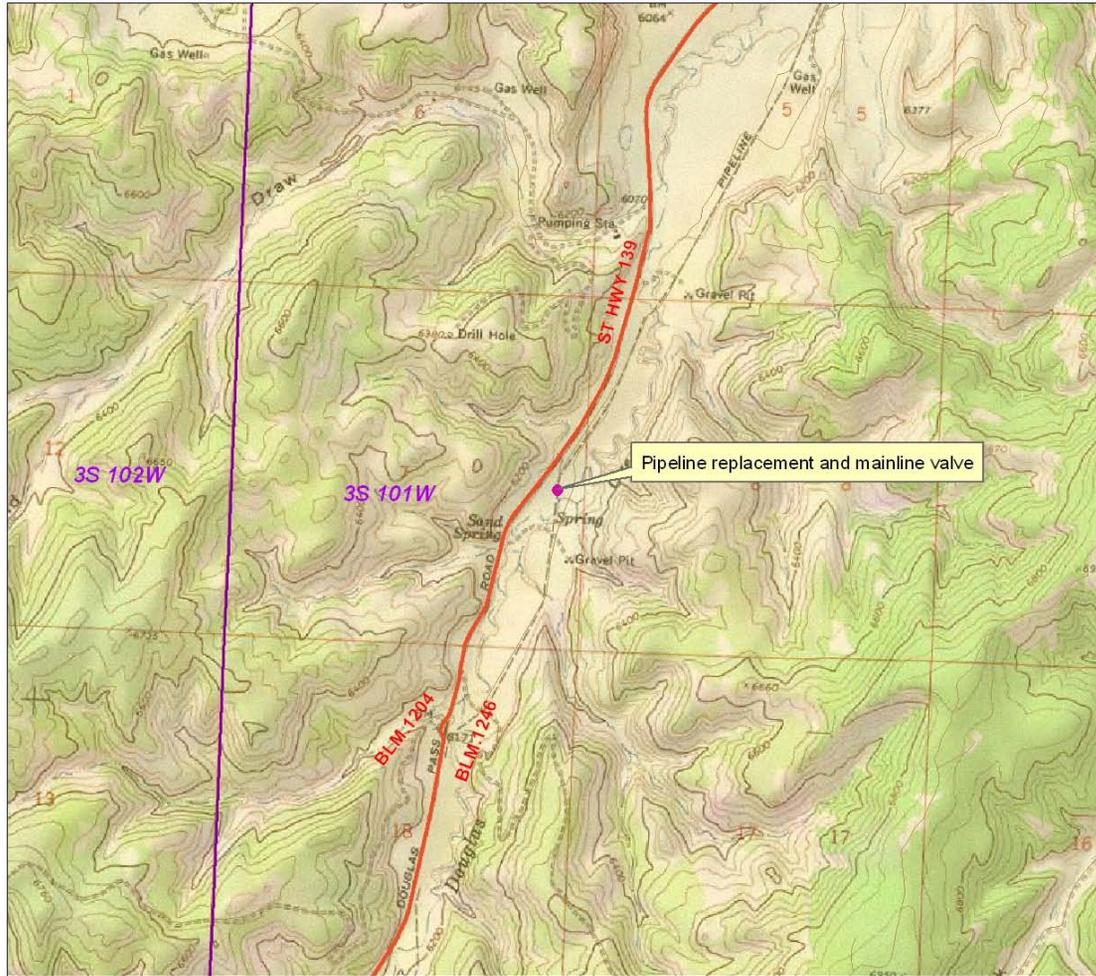
3/18/11

ATTACHMENTS:

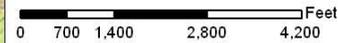
Exhibit A-Map of NWP Ignacio-Sumas Pipeline Replacement and Mainline Valve

NWP Ignacio-Sumas Pipeline Replacement and Mainline Valve T. 3 S., R. 101 W.

EXHIBIT A



- PLS5_Township_0CDB2008
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other



Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDW, etc.

Disclaimer:
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October 2010

