

**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-110-2011-0129-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: *See* Table 1 for Casefiles

PROJECT NAME: Assignment of ROWs to Koch Exploration Company

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian,
T. 2 N., R. 97 W. (*see* Table 1 for complete legal descriptions)

APPLICANT: Koch Exploration Company, LLC

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Koch Exploration Company, LLC (hereafter Koch) has submitted an application requesting the assignment of eight access road and pipeline rights-of-way from Chesapeake Operating, Inc. and one pipeline right-of-way from Mid-America Midstream Gas Service, LLC. (*see* Table 1 and Exhibit A).

Koch agrees to be bound by all of the terms and conditions of the right-of-way grants. No construction would be authorized by this action. Any new disturbance would require an application, analysis, and authorization. Applicable stipulations from original grants would be carried forward.

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-9); “*Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.*”

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Exception	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, floodplains; 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.		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. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		x
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau of office.		x
8. 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
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		x
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations		x
11. 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
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.		x

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on June 7, 2011. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office.

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: A transfer of right-of-way in and of itself does not result in any impacts to resources on the ground. All the identified ROWs have been previously inventoried and/or disturbed with no new impacts to cultural resources anticipated from this action. Any proposals for upgrade or reroute of the ROWs will require review and possible further inventory. There will be no new impacts to known cultural resources from this action. (MRS 6/22/2011)

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 6/22/2011)

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with a rights-of-way transfer. (LRB 06/24/2011)

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: Since this is a transfer of a ROW there are no special status plant species concerns. If any proposals require ground disturbance at these sites, special status plant species surveys may be required. (ZMM 6/23/2011)

MITIGATION: All applicable terms and conditions of the original right-of-way grants will be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring activities will be conducted by White River Field Office staff. Specific mitigation developed in the associated Categorical Exclusion and the grant terms and conditions will be followed. The holder will be notified of compliance related issues and will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

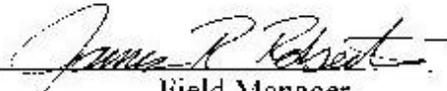
NAME OF PREPARER: Stacey Burke

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 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:


Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 8/18/2011

ATTACHMENTS: Table 1 – Descriptions of ROWs to be assigned
Exhibit A – Maps of ROWs

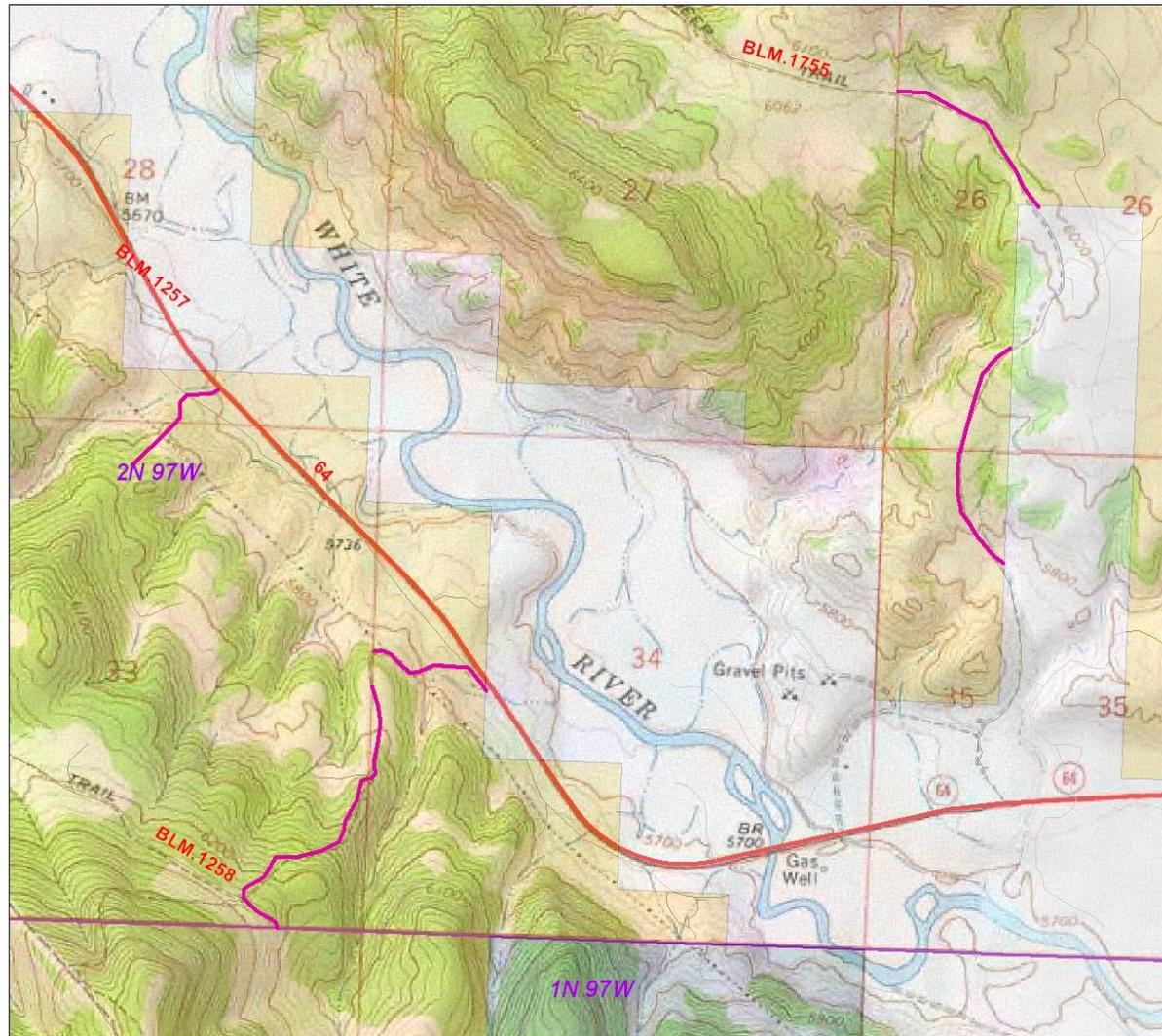
Table 1: Assignment of ROWs to Koch Exploration Company, LLC

ROW Serial #	Case Type	Legal Description	ROW Description	Length (feet)	Width (feet)	Acres
COC52867	Road	T2N, R97W, sec. 26, S2NW, SWSW; sec. 28, lot 24; sec. 33, NWNE, E2SE; sec. 34, lots 8, 23, SWSW; sec. 35, NWNW.	Access Roads to 33-2, 1-23, 33-4B, 2-27, and 4-1	11,500	25	6.6
COC52867A	Road	T2N, R97W, sec. 34, lot 27.	Access Road to 3-1	600	20	0.28
COC53320	Pipeline	T2N, R97W, sec. 28, lot 24; sec. 33, lot 2, NWNE, SENE; sec. 34, lots 8, 21, 23.	Pipeline to 33-4B, 33-1, and 33-2	8,400	35	6.75
COC75083 <i>Partial assignment from COC55374</i>	Road	T2N, R97W, sec. 26, NWNE.	Access Road to 4-23	1,015	30	0.70
COC55886	Pipeline	T2N, R97W, sec. 20, S2SW; sec. 28, lot 20, NWSW; sec. 29, SWNE, NW, N2SE.	Pipeline and 100 feet by 100 feet compressor station to tie into NWP Piceance Lateral pipeline	12,200	30	8.63
COC55889	Pipeline	T2N, R97W, sec. 21, NWNE, SWNE, NENW, SENW, N2SE, SESE; sec. 22, NWSW, S2SW; sec. 27, lot 5, 6; sec. 28, lots 14, 15, SENE; sec. 35, SWNW.	Pipeline to 20-1, 22-13, and 21-12	15,500	30	10.67
COC56812	Pipeline	T2N, R97W, sec. 34, lots 24, 27.	Pipeline to 2-34	1,400	35	1.12
COC57606	Road	T2N, R97W, sec. 28, lot 20, W2SW; sec. 29, SESE.	Access Road to 32-1	5,000	25	2.9

COC70672 <i>From Mid-American Midstream Gas Services, LLC</i>	Pipeline	T2N, R97W, sec. 25, W2SW; sec. 26, NE, S2NW, NESE; sec. 36, N2NW.	Pipeline to 3-27 and 4-23	12,015	20	5.52
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Access Road ROW COC52867 Assignment from Chesapeake to Koch T. 2 N., R. 97 W.

EXHIBIT A



- COC52867
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- PLSS_Townships_GCD02008
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other

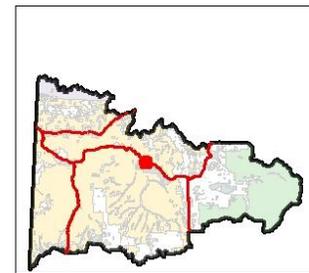


Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

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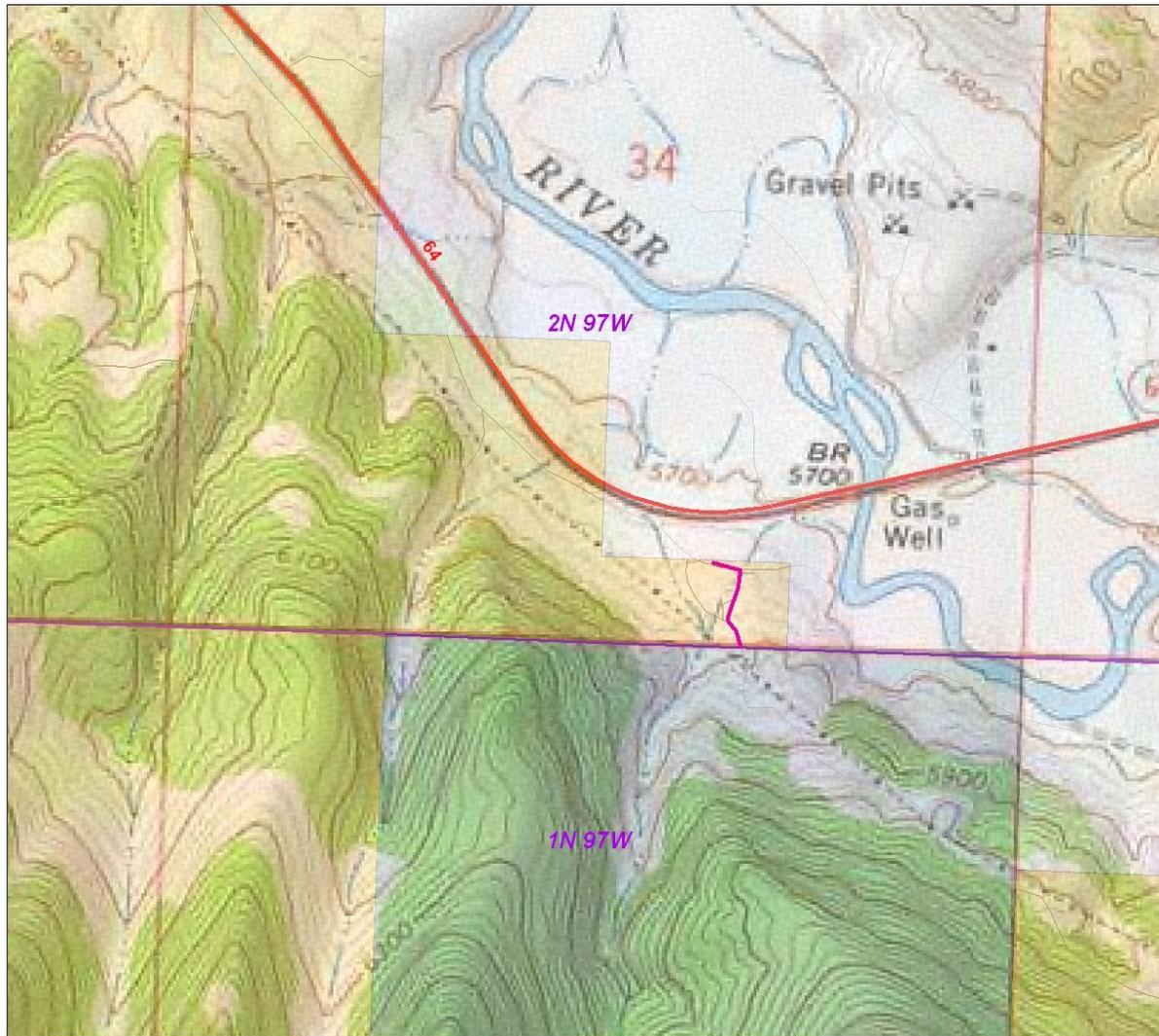


June 2011



Access Road ROW COC52867A Assignment from Chesapeake to Koch
T. 2 N., R. 97 W.

EXHIBIT A



- COC52867A
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- PLS5_Townships_GCD02008
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other

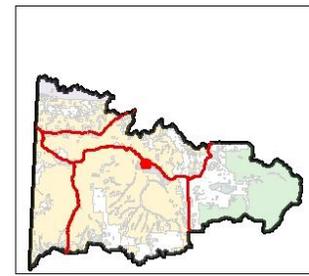


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June 2011



Pipeline ROW COC53320 Assignment from Chesapeake to Koch
T. 2 N., R. 97 W.



EXHIBIT A

- COC53320
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- PLSS Townships_GCD02008
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other

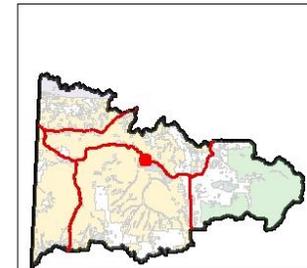


Sources:
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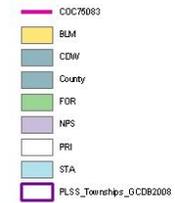
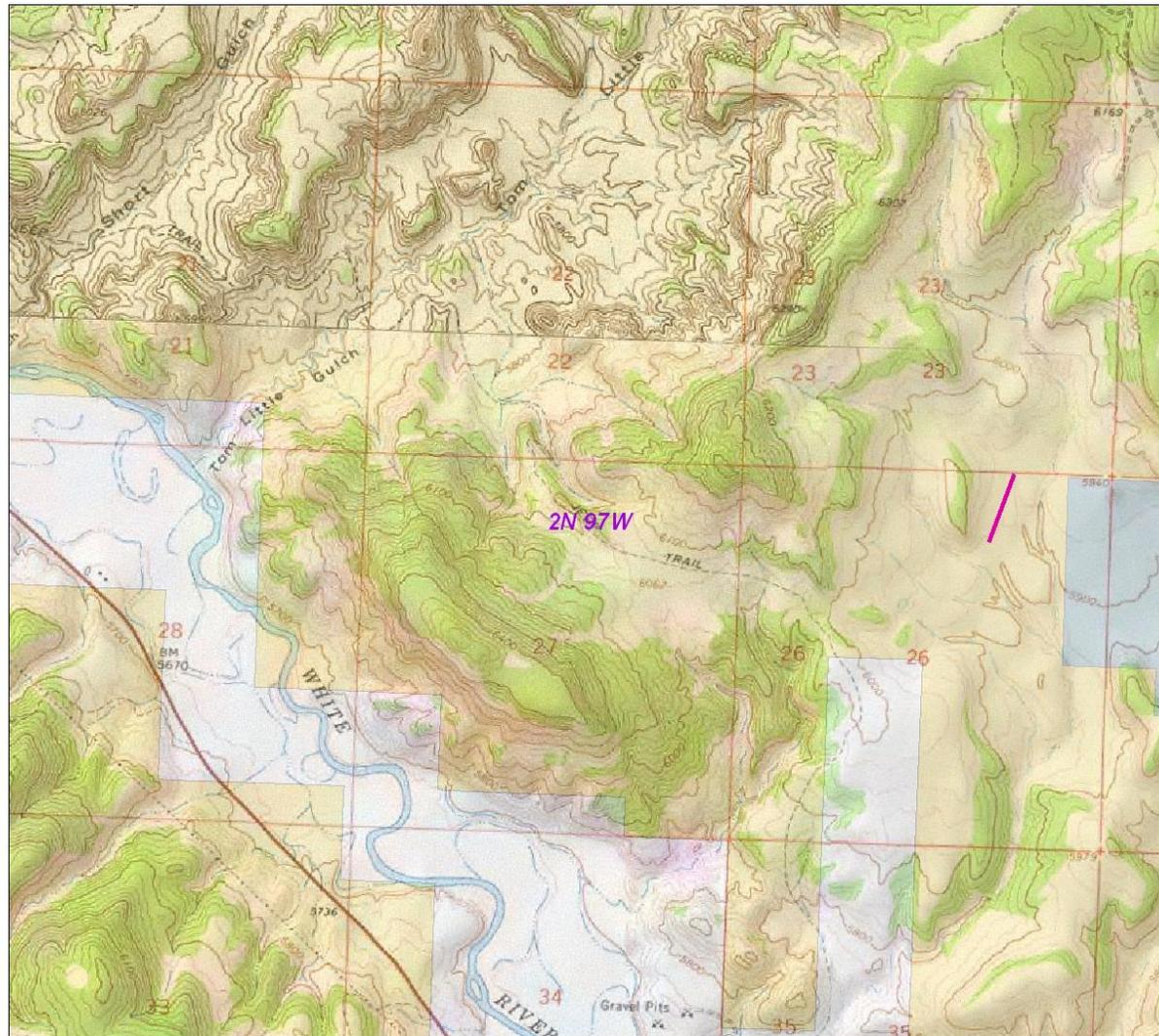


June 2011



Access Road ROW COC75083 Partial Assignment from Chesapeake to Koch
 T. 2 N., R. 97 W.

EXHIBIT A

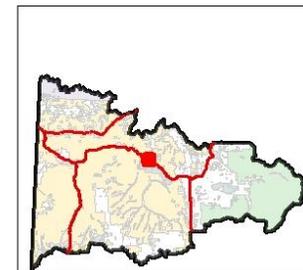


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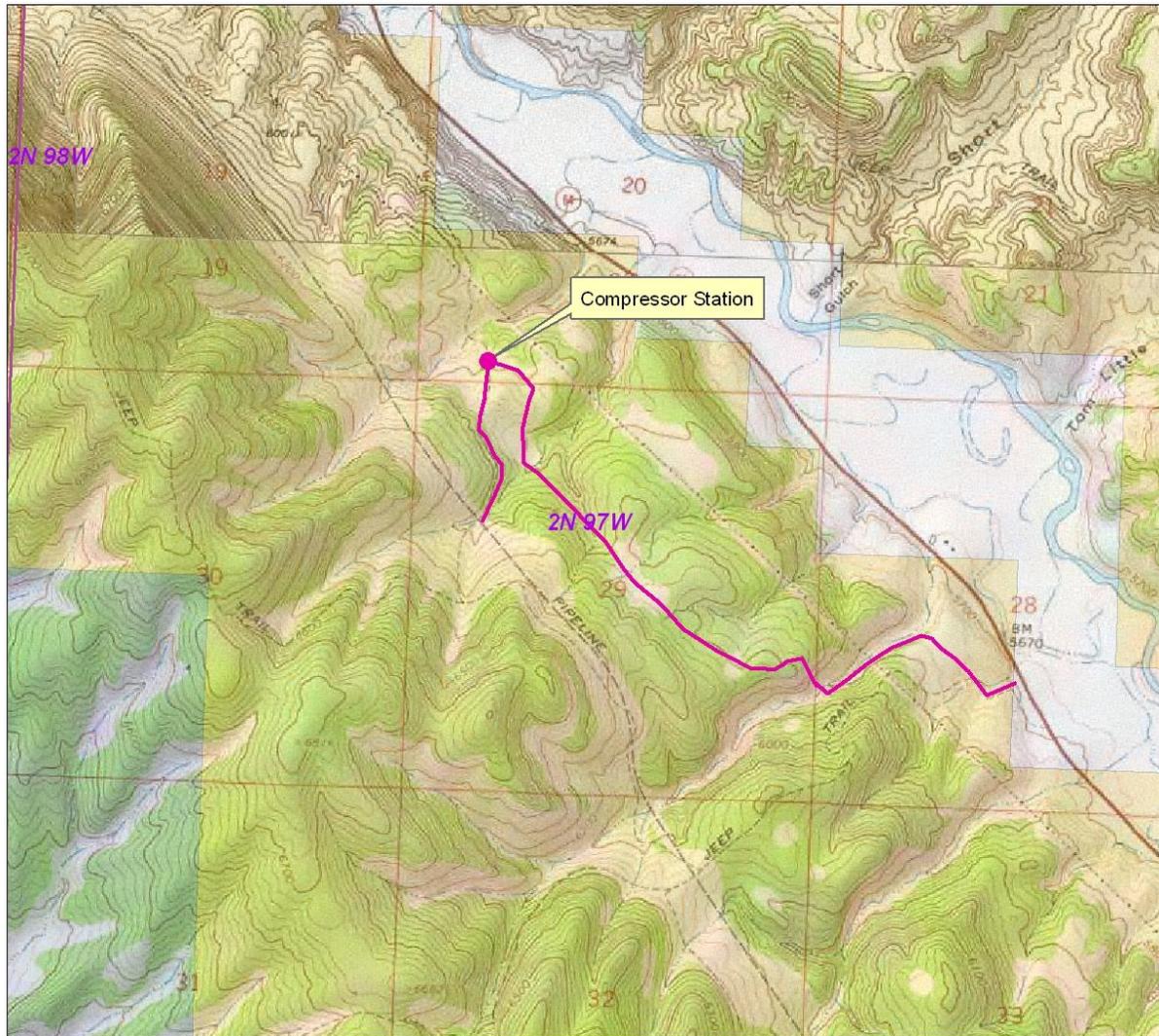


August 2011



Pipeline ROW COC55886 Assignment from Chesapeake to Koch T. 2 N., R. 97 W.

EXHIBIT A



- COC55886
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- PLS5_Townships_GCD82008

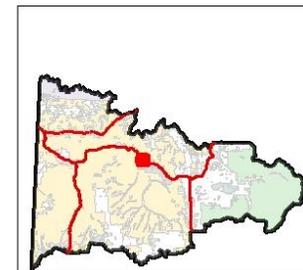


Sources:
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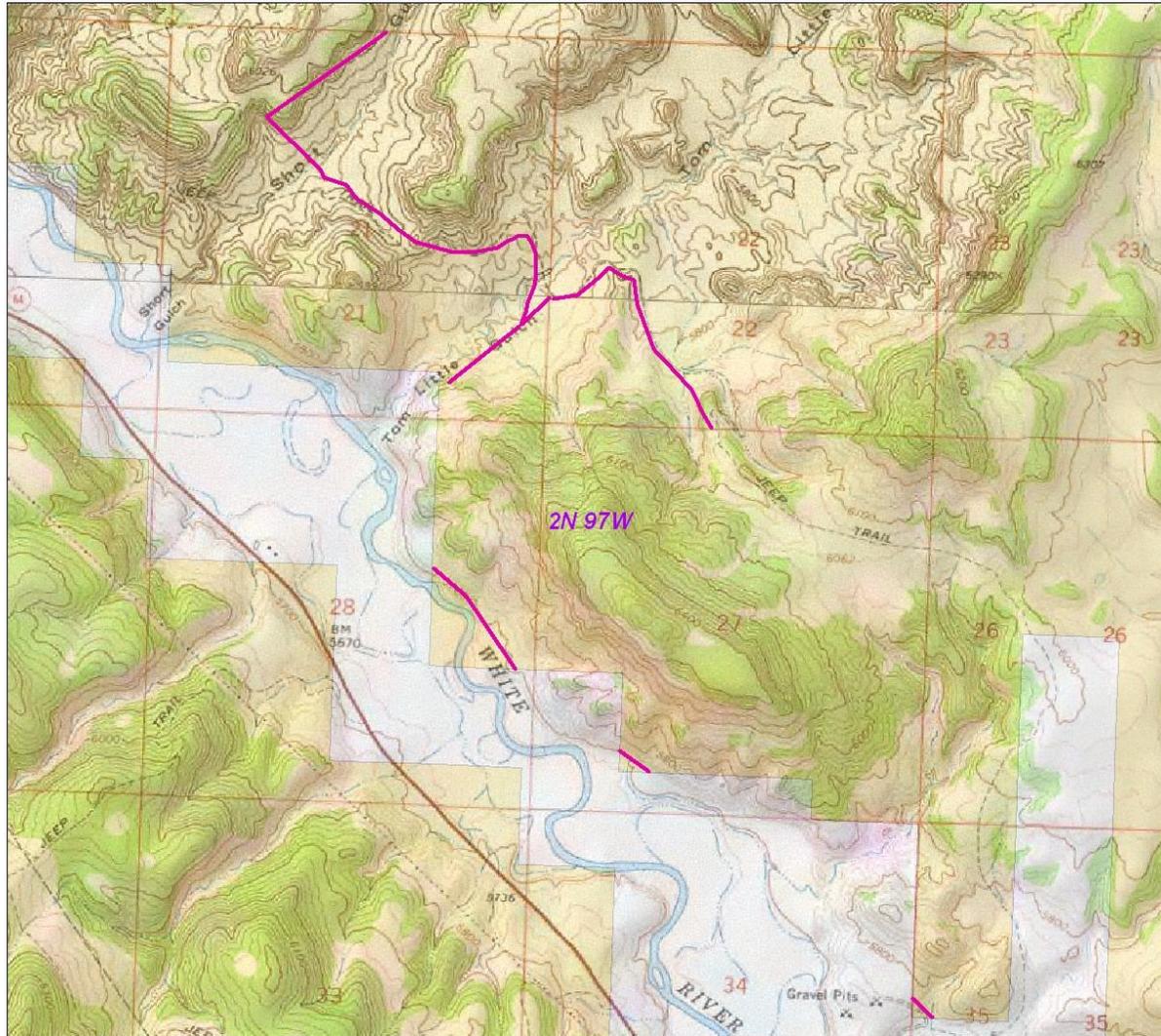


June 2011



Pipeline ROW COC55889 Assignment from Chesapeake to Koch
T. 2 N., R. 97 W.

EXHIBIT A



- COC55889
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- PLSSTownships_GCD62008



Sources:
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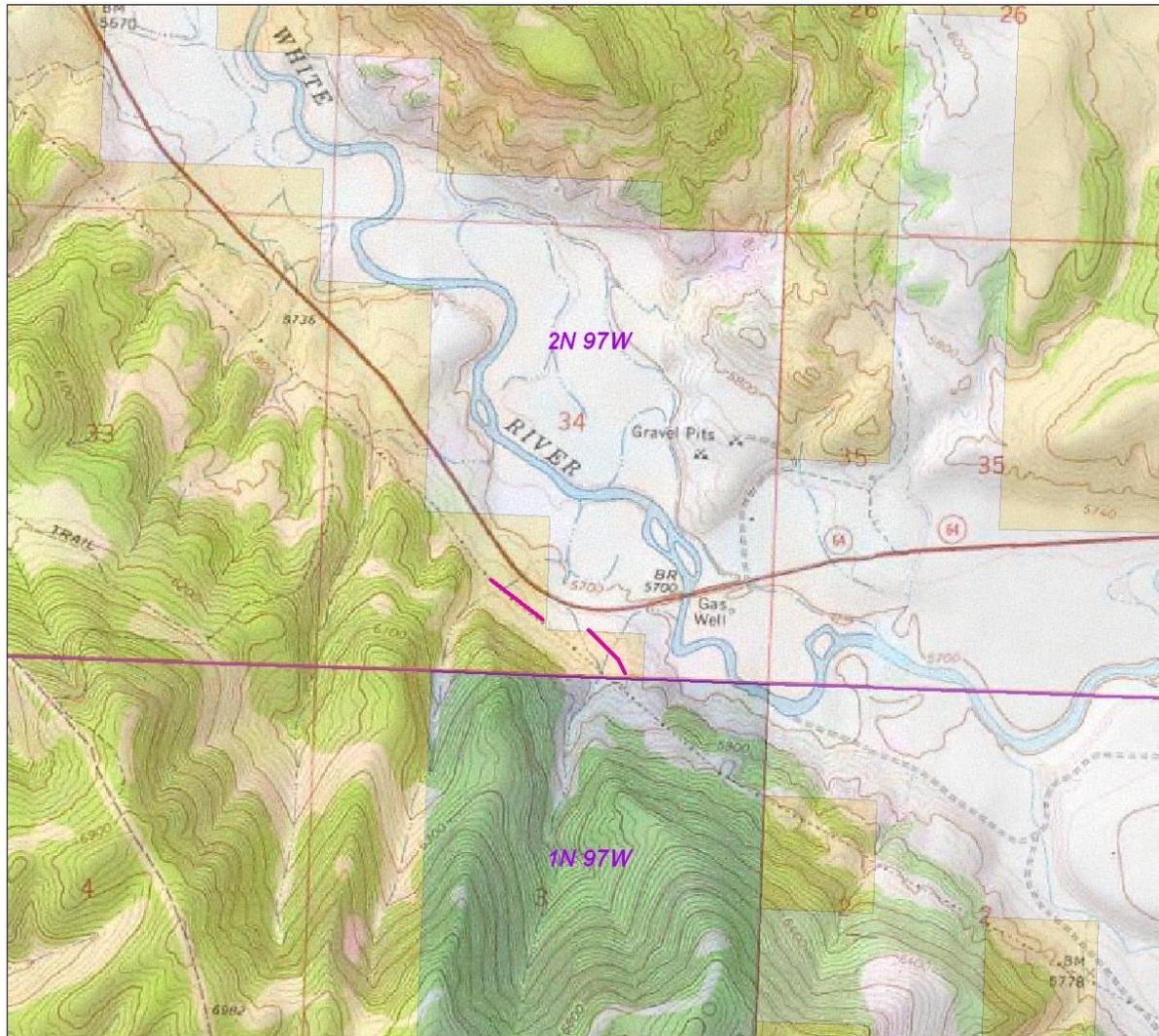


June 2011



Pipeline ROW COC56812 Assignment from Chesapeake to Koch
T. 2 N., R. 97 W.

EXHIBIT A



- COC56812
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- PLSSTownships_GDB2008

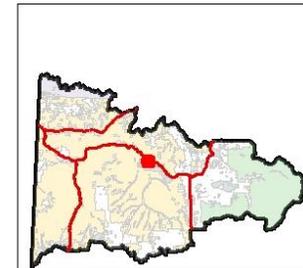


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June 2011

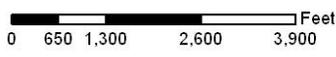


Access Road ROW COC57606 Assignment from Chesapeake to Koch
 T. 2 N., R. 97 W.



EXHIBIT A

- COC57606
- BLM
- CDM
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- PLS5_Townships_0C082008

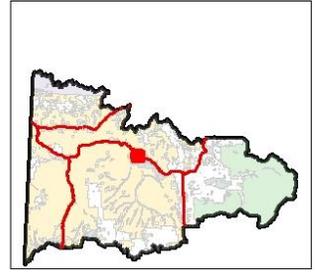


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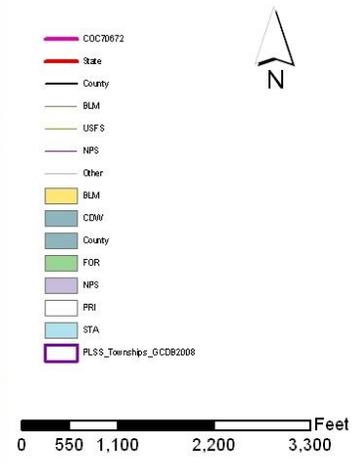
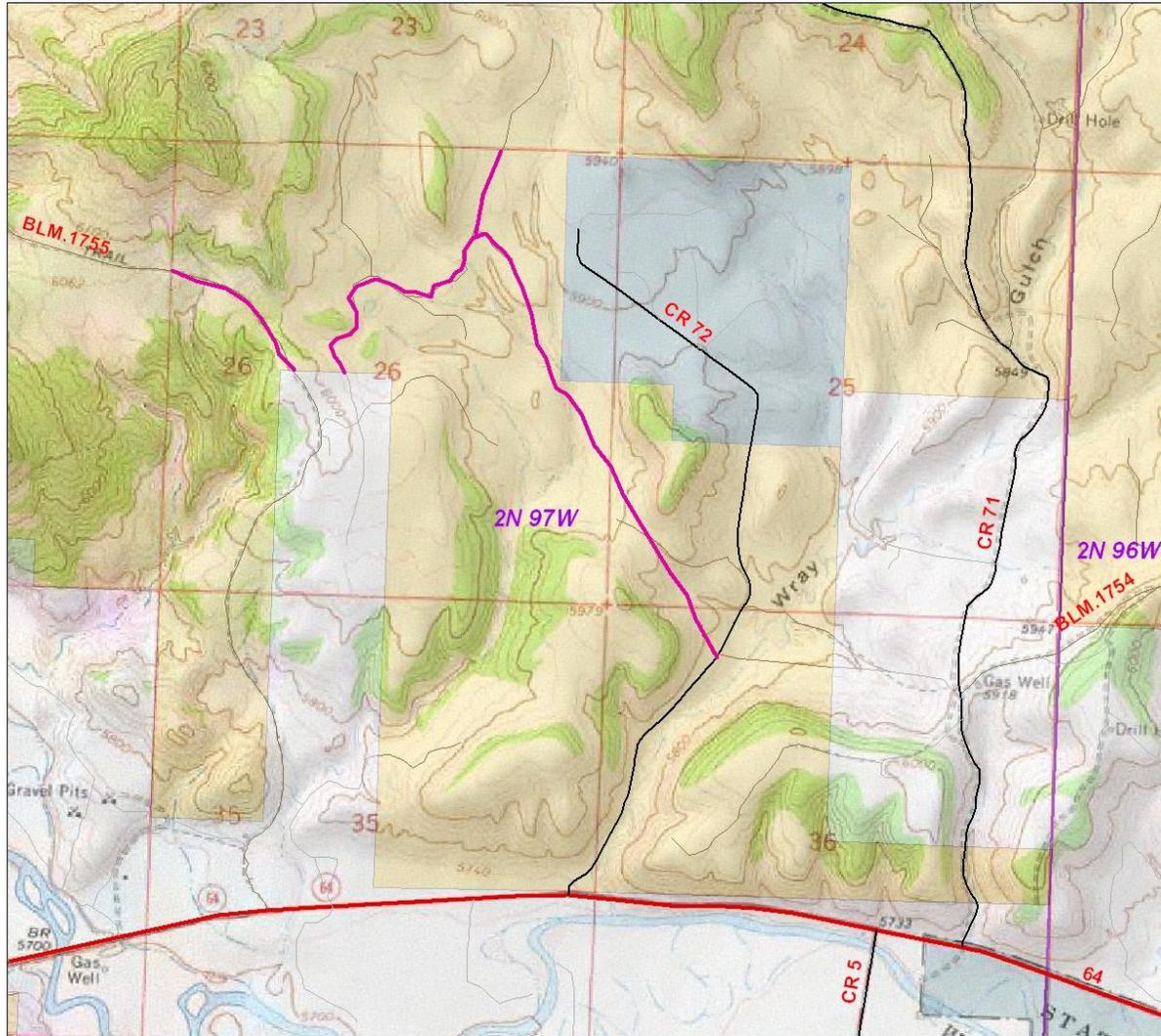


August 2011



Pipeline ROW COC70672 Assignment from Mid-America Midstream to Koch
 T. 2 N., R. 97 W.

EXHIBIT A



Sources:
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