

**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-110-2011-0159-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC52705, COC18423, and COC68936

PROJECT NAME: CIG/Source Gas/REX Pipelines Erosion Control

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado  
T. 3 N., R. 96 W.,  
sec. 9, NW¼NW¼;  
sec. 20, NW¼NW¼.

APPLICANT: Colorado Interstate Gas/Source Gas/Rockies Express

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Right-of-way (ROW) COC18423 was issued to Rocky Mountain Natural Gas Company (Source Gas) on September 07, 1973 and was renewed on December 17, 2009. The ROW is 20.5 miles long and 50 feet wide.

ROW COC52705 was issued to Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG) on April 03, 1992. The ROW is 141.03 miles long and 50 feet wide.

ROW COC68936 was issued to Entrega Gas Pipeline Inc. (REX) on September 28, 2005. The ROW is 86.1 miles long and 50 feet wide.

All three pipelines share a corridor approximately 150 feet wide. Surface terraces and existing French drains were not ideally placed post-construction to prevent surface water from accumulating on the ROWs, and the drains were not adequate enough to prevent surface water concentration. With no facility in place to transport the water away from the unconsolidated fill that was placed back in the pipeline trench, concentrated surface water pooled and percolated down through the loose fill to the lines or bottom of the trench. There are no sack breakers in place to limit or eliminate the migration of the leach path, so it expands to create holes.

Ercon Inc. has designed a stabilization plan for the current erosion problems at two sites along the pipeline ROWs. Site 1 is located at 40.24844°N, 108.17480°W and Site 3 is located at 40.21887°N, 108.19640°W. Ercon proposes to remove the existing terraces and install more traditional waterbars that follow existing grades and will be placed at intervals of elevation to accommodate anticipated run off. Perforated pipe will be placed underground and will carry the run off to hard piping located on the downstream edge of the ROW. Any holes that are excavated

and re-compacted will include the addition of trench breakers incorporating an appropriate geotextile. All disturbance will be within the existing ROWs and access will be along existing roads and pipeline ROWs. The erosion control work needs to begin as soon as possible so that it is completed prior to the start of hunting season.

No additional disturbance outside of the existing rights-of-way is authorized by this action, and all applicable terms and conditions of the original ROW grants shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1601.08) 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, E13: “*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 (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	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		X

<b>Extraordinary Circumstance</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
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 bureau of office.		X
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 7/26/2011. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Date</b>
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	8/3/2011
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	8/5/2011
Zoe Miller	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	7/26/2011

## REMARKS:

*Cultural Resources:* Excavations and repairs in section 9: The area of excavation and repairs has been inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level. During inventory two archaeological sites were identified, 5MF 3182 and 3183 (Gruebel et al 2009 compliance dated 5/3/2010, Pennefather-O'Brien et al 1992 compliance dated 12/17/1992, Redman and Chandler 2004 compliance dated 6/24/2005). The sites were officially determined ineligible for nomination to or listing on the National Register of Historic Places prior to the construction of the pipelines. The sites were heavily impacted/disturbed by pipeline construction, and it is unlikely additional damage will occur to the sites. There is no new net loss of data to the regional archaeological data base anticipated.

Excavations and repairs in section 20: The area of the excavation and repairs has been inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level (Gruebel et al 2009 compliance dated 5/3/2010, Pennefather-O'Brien et al 1992 compliance dated 12/17/1992, Redman and Chandler 2004 compliance dated 6/24/2005). No surface or subsurface cultural resources were identified in this area during the pipeline projects. It is not anticipated that additional impacts will occur. However, if excavations deeper than two feet are needed, a potential exists to impact subsurface remains outside of the original pipeline trenches. Impacts to previously unidentified subsurface remains could result in an irreversible and irretrievable loss to the regional archaeological database.

*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.

*Paleontological Resources:* The proposed repair areas are located in an area generally mapped as the Wasatch formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM WRFO has classified as a PFYC 5 formation, meaning it is known to produce a variety of scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c.f. Armstrong and Wolny 1989, Bilbey and Hall 2005 compliance dated 4/12/2005). If it should become necessary to excavate into undisturbed elements of the underlying sedimentary rock formation to conduct repairs, there is a high potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossil resources.

*Special Status Wildlife Species:* There are no wildlife-related concerns or issues associated with the Proposed Action.

*Special Status Plant Species:* There are no special status plant species concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

## REFERENCES CITED.:

- Armstrong, Harley J., and David G. Wolny  
1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.
- Bilbey, Sue Ann, and Evan Hall  
2005 Paleontological Evaluation: Existing Data Review and Field Survey Along the Proposed Entrega Gas Pipeline Project in Northwestern Colorado and Southern Wyoming. Uinta paleontological Associates Inc., Vernal, Utah. (05-115-06: SHPO# MC.LM.411)
- Gruebel, Rand A., Summer More, Anna Backer, and David Strohmaier  
2009 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Proposed Pathfinder/Bison pipeline project Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties, Colorado: 2008 Field Season. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Montrose, Colorado. (10-83-04: SHPO #MC.E.R81)
- Pennefather-O'Brien, Elizabeth, Patrick Lubinski, and Michael D Metcalf. Editors  
1992 Colorado Interstate Gas Company Uinta Basin Lateral 20" Pipeline: Class III Cultural Resource Final Report Utah, Colorado and Wyoming. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado. (92-54-26: SHPO #MC.LM.R71)
- Redman, Kim and Susan M. Chandler  
2004 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Colorado Segments of the Planned Entrega Gas Pipeline Rio Blanco, Moffat, Larimer, and Weld Counties, Colorado. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Montrose, Colorado. (05-83-09: SHPO # MC.LM.R480)
- Tweto, Ogden  
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

## MITIGATION:

1. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the holder is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the holder as to:
  - whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
  - the mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. If it should become necessary to excavate into undisturbed portions of the underlying sedimentary rock formation, a paleontological monitor shall be present before any such excavations begin and shall remain until all excavations have been completed and back filling of the excavations has begun.
3. To reduce the chance of water piping along the 12-inch diameter conveyance pipes, appropriately spaced trench breakers shall be installed as the pipes drop to the outfalls.
4. Due to the steep slopes at each site, all disturbed areas shall be stabilized with seeding and erosion fabric, erosion matting, and/or waddles and install water bars as necessary to stabilize the surface. The recommended seed mix is:

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Application Rate (lbs PLS/acre)</b>
Rosana	Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4.5
Sodar	Streambank Wheatgrass	<i>Elymus lanceolatus ssp. psammophilus</i>	3.5
Toe Jam Creek	Bottlebrush Squirreltail	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	3
	Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.5
	Sulphur Flower	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	1.5
	Winterfat	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	1

5. Notify the WRFO hydrologist 24-hours prior to any construction.

**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 will be followed. The holder will be notified of compliance related issues, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

**NAME OF PREPARER:** Stacey Burke

**NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:** Heather Sauls

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E13. 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 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

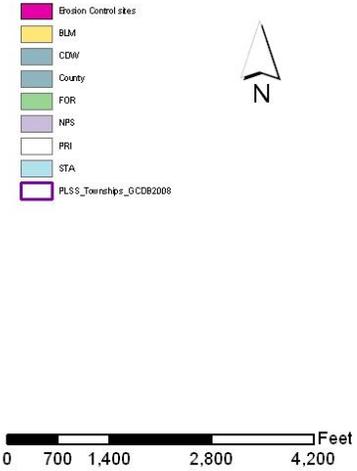
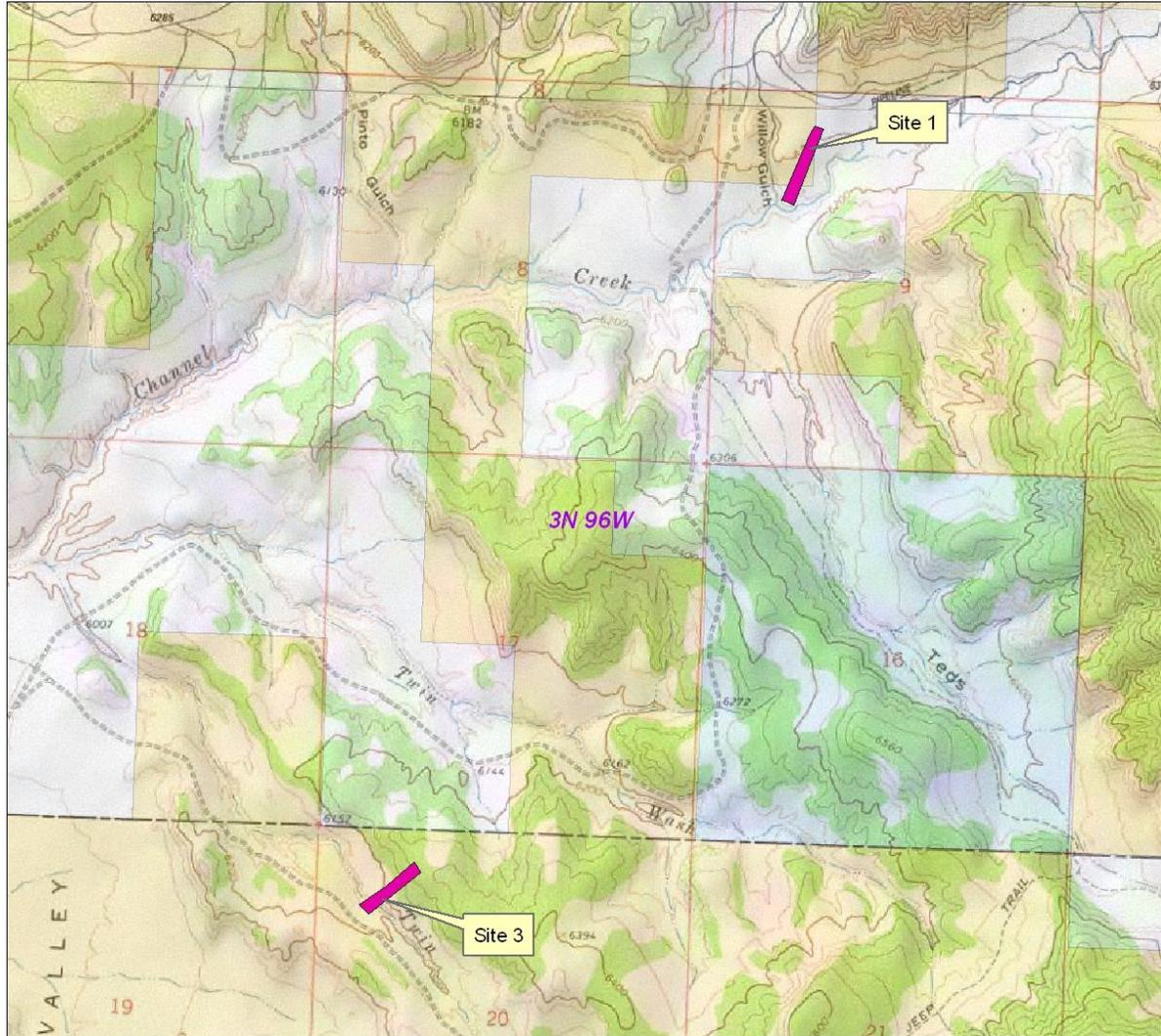
DATE SIGNED:

20/11/11

ATTACHMENTS: Map of Proposed Action

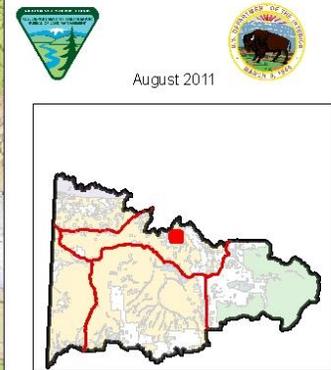
# Erosion Control CIG/Source Gas/REX pipeline corridor T3N, R96W

## EXHIBIT A



Sources:  
BLM, USGS, CDDW, etc.

Disclaimer:  
Although the data presented within this map, and the map itself, have been processed successfully on computers of BLM, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by BLM regarding the use of this map or the data represented, nor does the fact of distribution constitute or imply any such warranty.



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
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220 E Market St  
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**DECISION RECORD**

**PROJECT NAME:** CIG/Source Gas/REX Pipelines Erosion Control

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0159-CX

**DECISION**

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0159-CX, authorizing the maintenance of adjacent pipeline rights-of-way as a result of erosion issues.

**Mitigation Measures**

1. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the holder is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
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	Winterfat	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	1

5. Notify the WRFO hydrologist 24-hours prior to any construction.

**COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN**

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The BLM informed the public about this project by listing it on the online WRFO NEPA Register and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website.

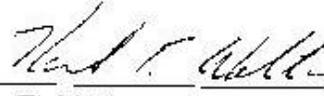
**RATIONALE**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E13. 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 46.215 apply.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a Notice of Appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at White River Field Office, 220 East Market St., Meeker, CO 81641 with copies sent to the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, and to the Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS300-QC, Arlington, VA, 22203. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals at the above address within 30 days after the Notice of Appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:**



Field Manager

**DATE SIGNED:**

08/11/11