

**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-110-2011-0144-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC66268

PROJECT NAME: Maintenance of Collection Stations for Chevron Pipelines

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian
T.2N. R.102W.
Sec. 26, 27, 34, 35

APPLICANT: Chevron Pipe Line Company

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Chevron pipe Line Company has determined that some sections of their pipelines in their Rangely Gathering System will need to be replaced due to age. The existing 6 inch steel pipeline used as part of the crude oil gathering system will have sections replaced in kind (see Exhibit A). Two metering stations will be affected. Collection Station (CS) 33 will be removed completely and CS 39 will be replaced. Below ground pipes will be replaced by below ground pipes and above ground pipes will be replaced by above ground pipes, with the exception of road crossings. All road crossings will be buried. The work can be done within the existing 50 foot right-of-way (ROW). There are no stream crossings. Access will be from existing roads and along the existing ROW.

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, E-13: *Amendments to existing rights-of-way such as upgrading of existing facilities which entail no additional disturbance outside the rights-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 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 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		X

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		

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.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
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: There is currently no inventory data associated with any of the proposed collection station or pipeline replacement station locations. It is not possible to know if cultural resources were present or impacted by previous construction without inventory data. The Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) strongly recommends inventory or monitoring of all pipeline replacement proposals in the Rangely Field area to determine if any archaeological resources are or will be impacted. If resources have been impacted due to previous construction it represents an incremental increase in the irreversible and irretrievable loss of data for 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: CS 33 and Pipeline: The CS 33 collection station and related oil flow pipeline is located in an area generally mapped as the Mancos Shale formation (Tweto 1979) which the WRFO has classified as a PFYC 3 formation in this area. In other areas Mancos Shale is known to produce mariner vertebrate fossils but no such fossil have been reported to date in the Rangely Field area (c.f. Armstrong and Wolny 1989). The BLM occasionally requires spot checking of excavations in the Mancos Shale to determine if fossil are present.

CS 39 and Pipeline: The CS 39 and the related pipeline is located in an area generally mapped as Quaternary Alluvium (Tweto 1979) which the WRFO has classified as a PFYC 3 formation. Generally Quaternary Alluvium are not considered fossil bearing in northwest Colorado and it is not anticipated that there would be any impacts to fossil resources from the Proposed Action. There would be no net loss to the regional paleontological database as a result of work on the CS 39 collection station and associated pipeline.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: The project area is broadly encompassed by white-tailed prairie dog habitat. In particular, prairie dogs in the Rangely Oil Field are commonly found along existing pipeline corridors, due perhaps in part to previous soil disturbances. White-tailed prairie dogs, a BLM sensitive species, and their burrow systems are important components of burrowing owl habitat, as well as potential habitat for reintroduced populations of black-footed ferret.

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 Retional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.
- 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 that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The holder will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The holder, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, 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. Pursuant to direction from the Colorado State Office and the Colorado SHPO and pending of completion of the proposed field wide inventory, all excavations on the pipelines or the collection stations must be monitored by an approved archaeological contractor.

5. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.

6. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the holder or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

7. All pipeline excavations related to pipeline replacement in T2N, R102W, Section 35 shall have a paleontological monitor present during all excavations into the underlying sedimentary rock formation.

8. All earthwork associated with below ground pipeline replacement will be conducted outside the reproductive period for white-tailed prairie dogs (April 15 – July 15).

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 operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

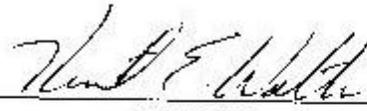
NAME OF PREPARER: Janet Doll

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, E-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 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

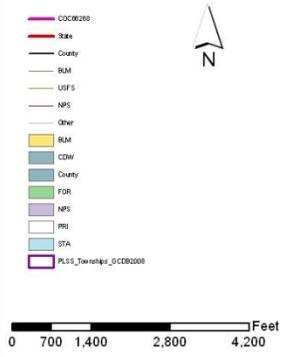
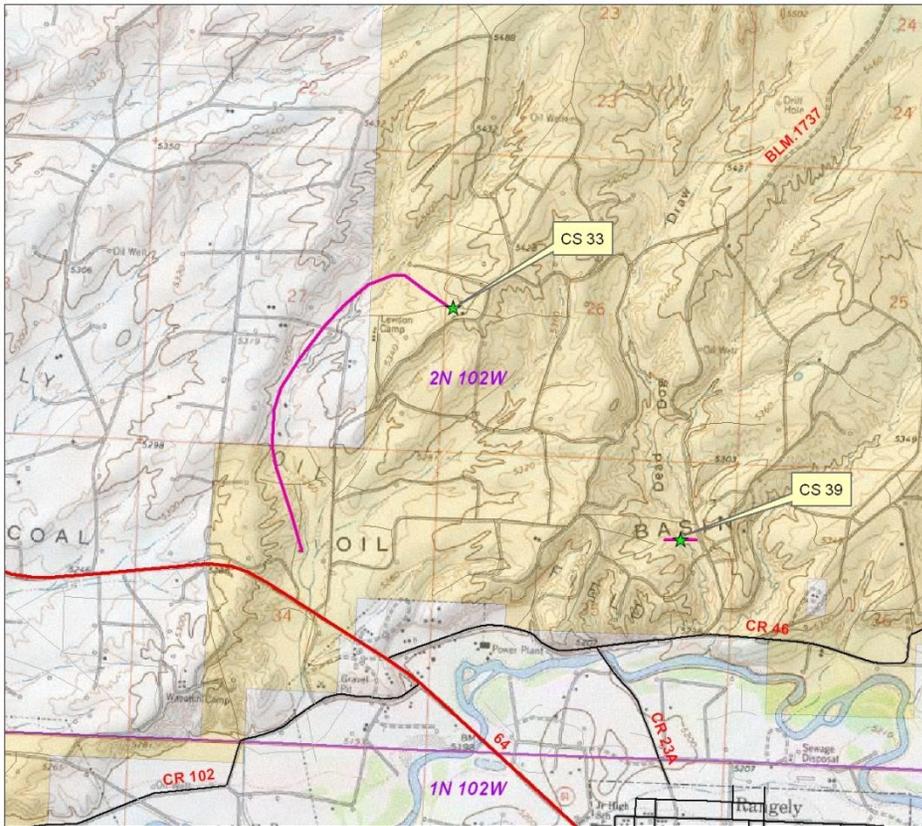
09/14/2011

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A: Chevron Pipeline Company Pipeline and Collection Station Maintenance

Chevron Pipe Line Company ROW COC66268
 Pipeline and Collection Station (CS) Maintenance

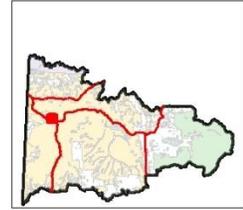
EXHIBIT A



Sources:
 BLM, USGS, CDOW, 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 an implied warranty.



July 2011



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

DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: Maintenance of Collection Stations for Chevron Pipelines

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0144-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2011-144-CX, authorizing the replacement of pipeline as well as removal and replacement of collection stations.

Mitigation Measures

1. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The holder will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The holder, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, 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.
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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 on 8/5/2011 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website.

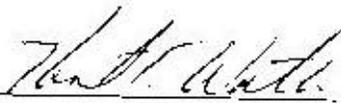
RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E-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 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:

09/14/2011