

**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-110-2011-0148-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC30009, COC30109, COC30109A, COC30109C, COC30109E, COC30109J, and new case file COC74999

PROJECT NAME: QEP ROW Renewals

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 2 S., R. 103 W.
T. 3 S., R. 101 W.

APPLICANT: QEP Field Services

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Questar Gas Management submitted an application for renewal of seven pipeline rights-of-way (ROW). On April 11, 2011, the ROWs were assigned to QEP Field Services from Questar Gas Management. The attached Table 1 describes each of the ROWs to be renewed.

No additional disturbance 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, E9: *“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.

| 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 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 7/12/2011. 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 | 7/19/2011 |
| Zoe Miller | Ecologist | Special Status Plant Species | 7/20/2011 |

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: A simple renewal of existing rights-of-way, that does not authorize any new ground disturbance, will not result in any new anticipated impacts to cultural resources. There should be no new irreversible or irretrievable net 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: A simple renewal of existing rights-of-way, that does not authorize any new ground disturbance, will not result in any new anticipated impacts to paleontological resources. There should be no new irreversible or irretrievable net loss to the regional paleontological database.

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

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

MITIGATION: 1. All terms and conditions contained in the original right-of-way grants and any amendments will be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.

2. At least 90 days prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized Officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection will be held

to agree to an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, and surface material; recontouring; topsoiling; or seeding. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.

3. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the operation and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.

4. Any proposal involving additional surface disturbance requires an application to the BLM for analysis and authorization. New stipulations for construction would be applied to projects subject to the regulations and policies existing at the time of authorization.

5. The holder shall monitor all disturbed and reclaimed areas through final abandonment for the presence of invasive, non-native, and/or noxious plant species. The applicant will be responsible for eradication of noxious weeds that occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff. Specific mitigation developed in this document will be followed. The holder 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.

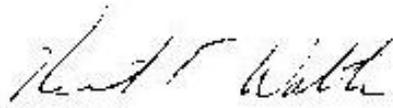
NAME OF PREPARER: Stacey Burke

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, E9. 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:

11/04/11

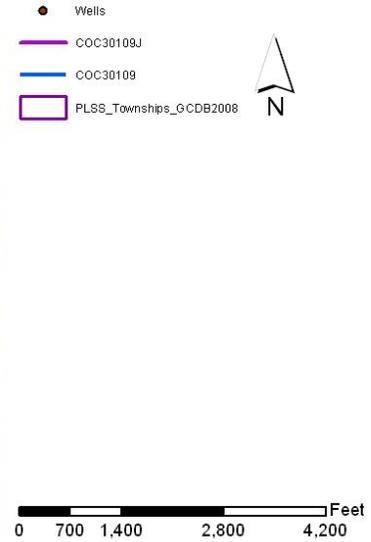
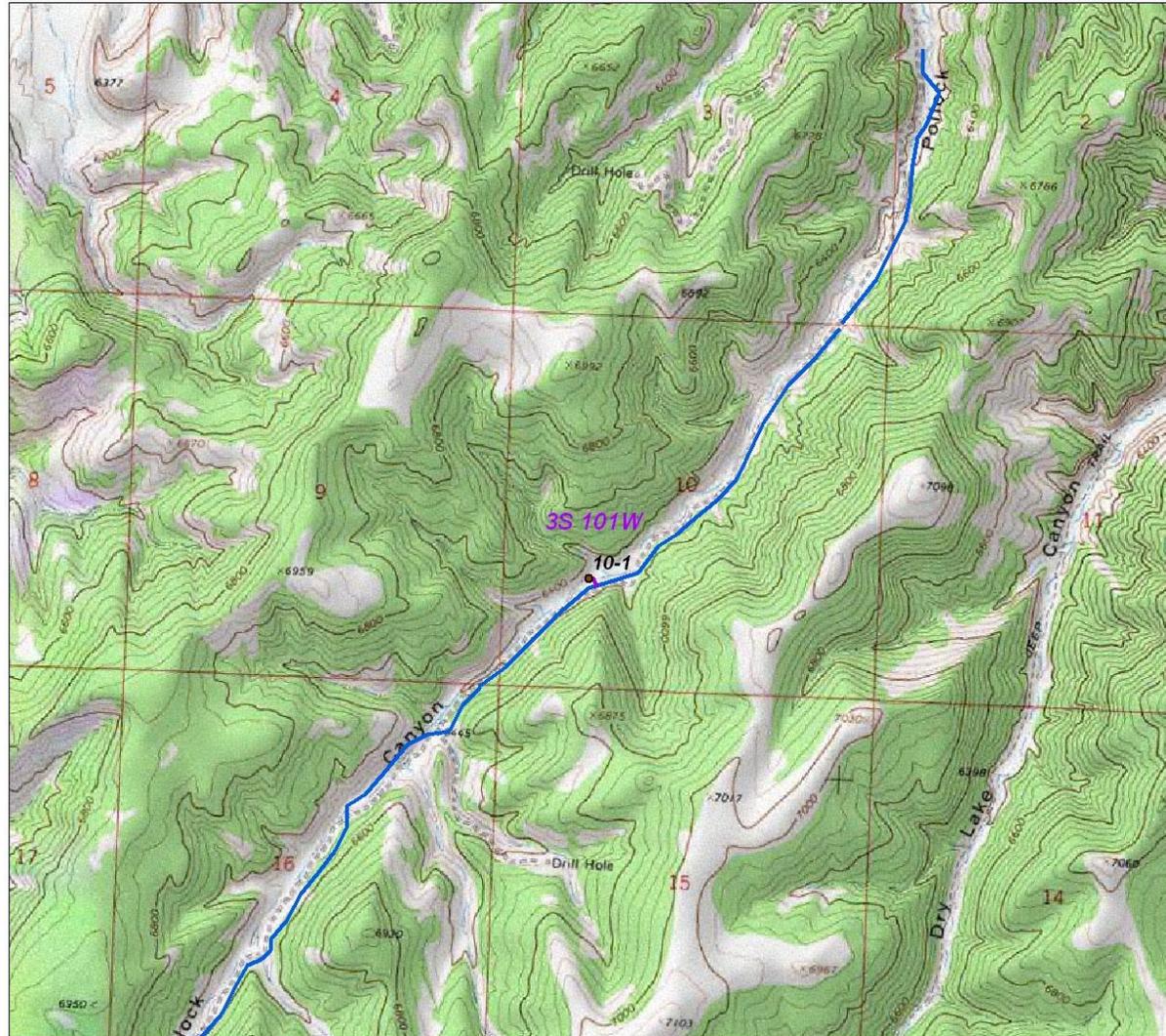
ATTACHMENTS: Table 1: Description of ROWs to be renewed
Maps of Proposed Action

Table 1: Description of ROWs

| ROW Case File | Legal Description | Description | Length (feet) | Width (feet) | Acres |
|---|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------|
| COC30009 | T2S, R103W, sec. 10, SESE; sec. 15, NENE. | Pipeline to Federal #10-2 well | 322 | 50 | 0.37 |
| COC30109 | T3S, R101W, sec. 2, SWNW, W2SW; sec. 3, SESE; sec. 9, SESE; sec. 10, N2NE, SWNE, N2SW, SWSW, NWSE; sec. 16, N2NE, SWNE, E2SW, SWSW, NWSE; sec. 20, SENE, E2SE; sec. 21, W2NW; sec. 29, NENE. | Cathedral trunkline | 24,286 (4.6 miles) | 35 | 19.5 |
| COC30109A | T3S, R101W, sec. 20, SENE; sec. 21, SWNW, N2S2, S2SE; sec. 27, SESW, SWSE; sec. 28, W2E2; sec. 33, W2NE, SENE; sec. 34, W2NW, NENW. | Pipeline to #O-27-3-101 well | 23,734 (4.5 miles) | 35 | 19.07 |
| COC30109C | T3S, R101W, sec. 21, NESE. | Pipeline to #21-1 well | 602 | 35 | 0.5 |
| COC30109E | T3S, R101W, sec. 20, SWNE, E2NW, NWNW, W2SE, SESE. | Pipeline to #20-1 well | 6931 (1.28 miles) | 35 | 5.57 |
| COC30109J | T3S, R101W, sec. 10, NWSW. | Pipeline to Federal #10-1 well | 31 | 35 | 0.02 |
| COC30109F and COC30109H reserialized as COC74999 | T3S, R101W, sec. 20 W2NE; | Pipeline to #A-20 well | 1,133 | 35 | 0.91 |

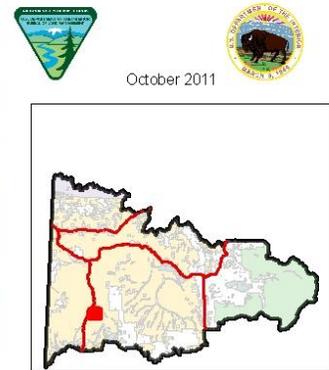
Renewal of QEP Big Horse Draw Pipeline ROWs T. 3 S., R. 101 W.

EXHIBIT A



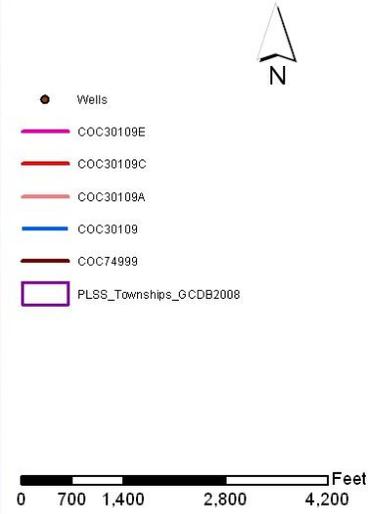
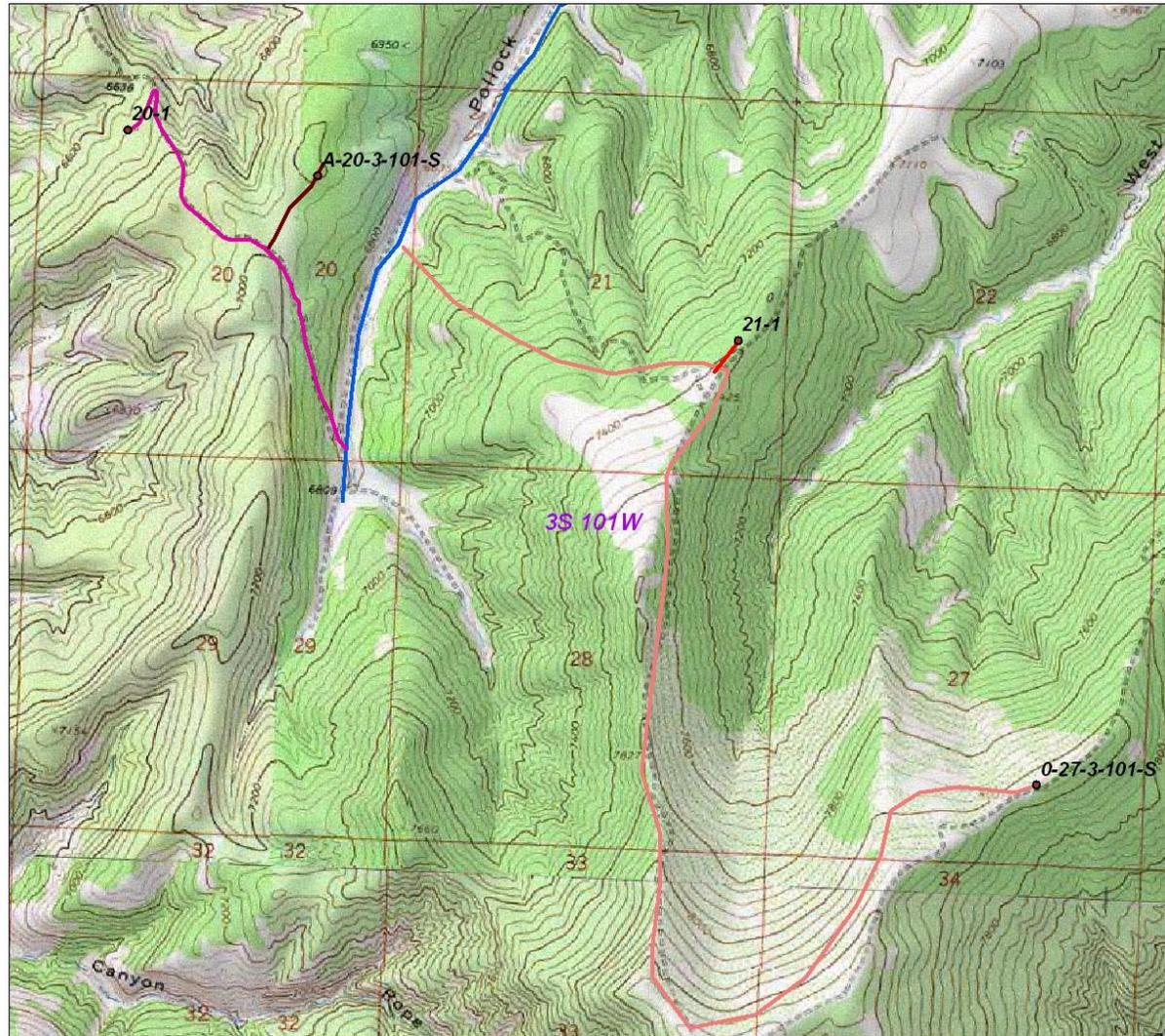
Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDDW, etc.

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Renewal of QEP Big Horse Draw Pipeline ROWs T. 3 S., R. 101 W.

EXHIBIT A



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Renewal of Pipeline ROW COC30009 T2N, R103W

EXHIBIT A



- ID-2 well
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA

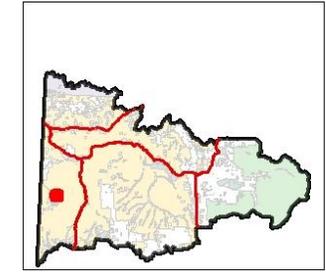


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July 2011



**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: QEP ROW Renewals

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0148-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0148-CX, authorizing renewal of the pipeline right-of-way grants.

Mitigation Measures

1. All terms and conditions contained in the original right-of-way grants and any amendments will be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.
2. At least 90 days prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized Officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection will be held to agree to an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, and surface material; recontouring; topsoiling; or seeding. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.
3. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the operation and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.
4. Any proposal involving additional surface disturbance requires an application to the BLM for analysis and authorization. New stipulations for construction would be applied to projects subject to the regulations and policies existing at the time of authorization.
5. The holder shall monitor all disturbed and reclaimed areas through final abandonment for the presence of invasive, non-native, and/or noxious plant species. The applicant will be responsible for eradication of noxious weeds that occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

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 7/13/2011 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website.

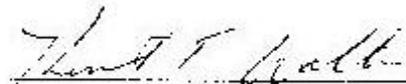
RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E9. 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:

11/24/11