

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

**DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA)**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0032-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: Amend COC69581

PROJECT NAME: Power Line to BOPCO 1-41-1 Disposal Well

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado  
T. 1 S., R. 98 W.,  
sec. 1, lot 6.

APPLICANT: White River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA)

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: There is occupied *Physaria congesta* habitat within 450 meters of the Proposed Action.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The BOPCO 1-41-1 well has been converted to a disposal well and will require electrical power ([DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-051-DNA](#) analyzed the conversion of the BOPCO 1-41-1 well to a disposal well and was signed 12/2/2011).

White River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA) proposes to construct a 25-kV three-phase distribution power line to serve the 1-41-1 disposal well (see Exhibit A). The total power line right-of-way (ROW) would be 226 ft long (including 32 ft on each end for the anchors), 25 ft wide, and contain approximately 0.13 acres.

The overhead portion of the power line would be constructed from the existing overhead power line to the 1-41-1 well pad. On the existing power line, an anchor (1 ft diameter) would be installed 32 ft from the existing pole. A wire would be installed from the existing pole to the anchor. The power line would span approximately 162 ft from the existing pole to the edge of the well pad disturbance where one 40 ft tall wooden pole and an anchor (32 ft from the new pole) with associated wire would be installed. The overhead power line would be pulled by hand from the existing power line to the well pad. The power line would then be buried an additional 10 feet from the pole to a pad-mounted transformer. The buried power line and transformer would all be within the existing well pad disturbance.

There would be no vegetation clearing. Equipment to be used would be a backhoe, 4-wheel drive 2-ton digger truck, and standard utility line trucks. Installation of the power line is expected to take one day to complete and would begin as soon as the ROW is authorized. WREA would provide raptor protection on the power line.

Decision to be Made: The BLM will decide whether or not to approve the power line ROW, and if so, under what conditions.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

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."

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

List by name and date all existing NEPA documents that cover the Proposed Action.

Name of Document: White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS).

Date Approved: June 1996

Name of Document: [CO-110-2006-064-EA](#)

Date Approved: 5/31/2006

NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:

1. Is the new Proposed Action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

*The Proposed Action is similar to the Proposed Action in the existing NEPA document (CO-110-2006-064-EA). The existing NEPA document analyzed a power line and this DNA analyzes an additional 172 ft of power line with 32 ft anchors on both ends to serve an injection well. The project is in the same analysis area as in the existing NEPA document.*

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the new Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

*Two alternatives (Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative), covering a reasonable range of alternatives was analyzed in CO-110-2006-064-EA. No reasons were identified to analyze additional alternatives, and these alternatives are considered to be adequate and valid for the Proposed Action.*

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new Proposed Action?

*Review by BLM WRFO specialists in this document (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0032-DNA) did not indicate recent endangered species listings and no indication was given to show an updated list of BLM-sensitive species that would be affected by the Proposed Action.*

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new Proposed Action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

*Review by BLM WRFO specialists in this document (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0032-DNA) did not indicate there would be any direct, indirect and cumulative effects from the Proposed Action that were not adequately addressed in CO-110-2006-064-EA.*

5. Is the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents adequate for the current Proposed Action?

*The public involvement with this project involved posting it on a list of pending NEPA documents on the BLM WRFO's White River NEPA Register on 1/12/2012. As of 3/22/2012, no comments or inquiries have been received.*

#### INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 1/10/2012. 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	3/14/2012
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	1/26/2012
Zoe Miller	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	3/19/2012

**REMARKS:**

*Cultural Resources:* The proposed power line route is in an area covered by all or parts of two Class III cultural resource inventories (Johnson 2006, compliance dated 11/1/2006 and Scott 2003, compliance dated 1/12/2003) with no cultural resources identified in the project area. It is not expected that there would be any new or cumulative impacts to any known cultural resources due to power line construction.

*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 power line is in a location generally mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979). However there is a thin, unmapped exposure of the Yellow Creek tongue of the Green River formation that also outcrops in the area (Bilbey and Hall 2004a, compliance dated 8/24/2004 and 2004b, compliance dated 10/21/2004). It is not anticipated that setting a power pole in the drainage bottom and stringing a conductor wire will have any impacts on paleontological resources. There is no anticipated cumulative loss to the regional paleontological database from the Proposed Action.

*Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species:* There are no threatened or endangered animal species that are known to inhabit or derive important use from the project area. Furthermore, there are no new circumstances that would alter wildlife-related discussions in the former analysis, nor are there newly identified special status animals that require specific address.

The proposed location is located in mule deer severe winter range which typically is subject to the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan's timing limitation (TL) 08 in which no development activities are allowed from December 1 through April 30. Due to the short duration of project work involved (one day) and the fact the project area lies immediately adjacent to an existing road and well pad, the timing stipulation will not be applied for this project.

*Threatened and Endangered Plant Species:* The Proposed Action will occur within 450 meters of occupied *Physaria congesta* population (Exhibit B). There are no other federally listed plants in the vicinity, based on 2011 special status plant species survey. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service (FWS) was consulted to determine potential effects on the species. The FWS had no concerns with the project because:

- disturbance is minimal and will be occurring on a previously disturbed well pad,
- a power pole anchor (1 ft diameter) will be placed in a small area outside of threatened plant species habitat in a previously disturbed area,
- the work will be completed in one working day, and
- the BLM will require the work to be done prior to the *P. congesta* growing season (prior to April 30, 2012).

There would be no measurable effect to *P. congesta* associated with the Proposed Action.

#### REFERENCES CITED:

Bilbey, Sue Ann, and Evan Hall

2004a Paleontological Field Survey Report: Dominion Gas Yellow Creek Pipeline Sections 21, 22, 28, 29 & 32 Township 1 North, Range 97 West, Section 36, Township 1 North, Range 98 West, Sections 1, 2, and 3, Township 1 South, Range 98 West, Bureau of Land Management Lands and Colorado Division of Wildlife lands, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Uinta Paleontological Associates, Inc., Vernal, Utah. (04-115-11: SHPO # RB.LM.NR1735)

2004b Paleontological field Survey Report: Dominion Gas Yellow Creek Pipeline – Reroute, Sections 17, 20, 21, 29, 31 & 32, Township 1 North, Range 97 West, Section 36, Township 1 North, Range 98 West, Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 97 West, Sections 1, 2, and 3, Township 1 South, Range 998 West, Bureau of Land Management Lands and Colorado Division of Wildlife Lands, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Uinta Paleontological Associates, Inc., Vernal, Utah. (04-115-20: SHPO # RB.LM.NR1698)

Johnson, Wendy Simmons

2006 Cultural Resource Inventory for the Relocation of BOPCO Wells Yellow Creek Federal, 4-41-1, 4-44-1, 1-32-1, 2-22-1(2), and 2-35-1 With Associated Access Roads and Pipelines, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Sagebrush Consultants, L.L.C., Ogden, Utah. (06-55-02: SHPO # RB.FS.NR101)

Scott, John M.

2003 Bass Enterprise Production Company's proposed Yellow Creek Federal 1-1 Well, Pad, access Road, and Pipeline. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado. (03-54-01: SHPO #RB.LM.NR1305)

MITIGATION: All applicable terms and conditions of right-of-way grant COC69581 shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect. All construction activity associated with the power line project shall take place before April 30, 2012.

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.

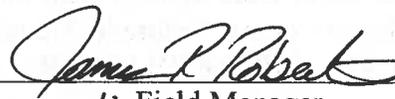
NAME OF PREPARER: Stacey Burke

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

  
Acting Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

3/26/2012

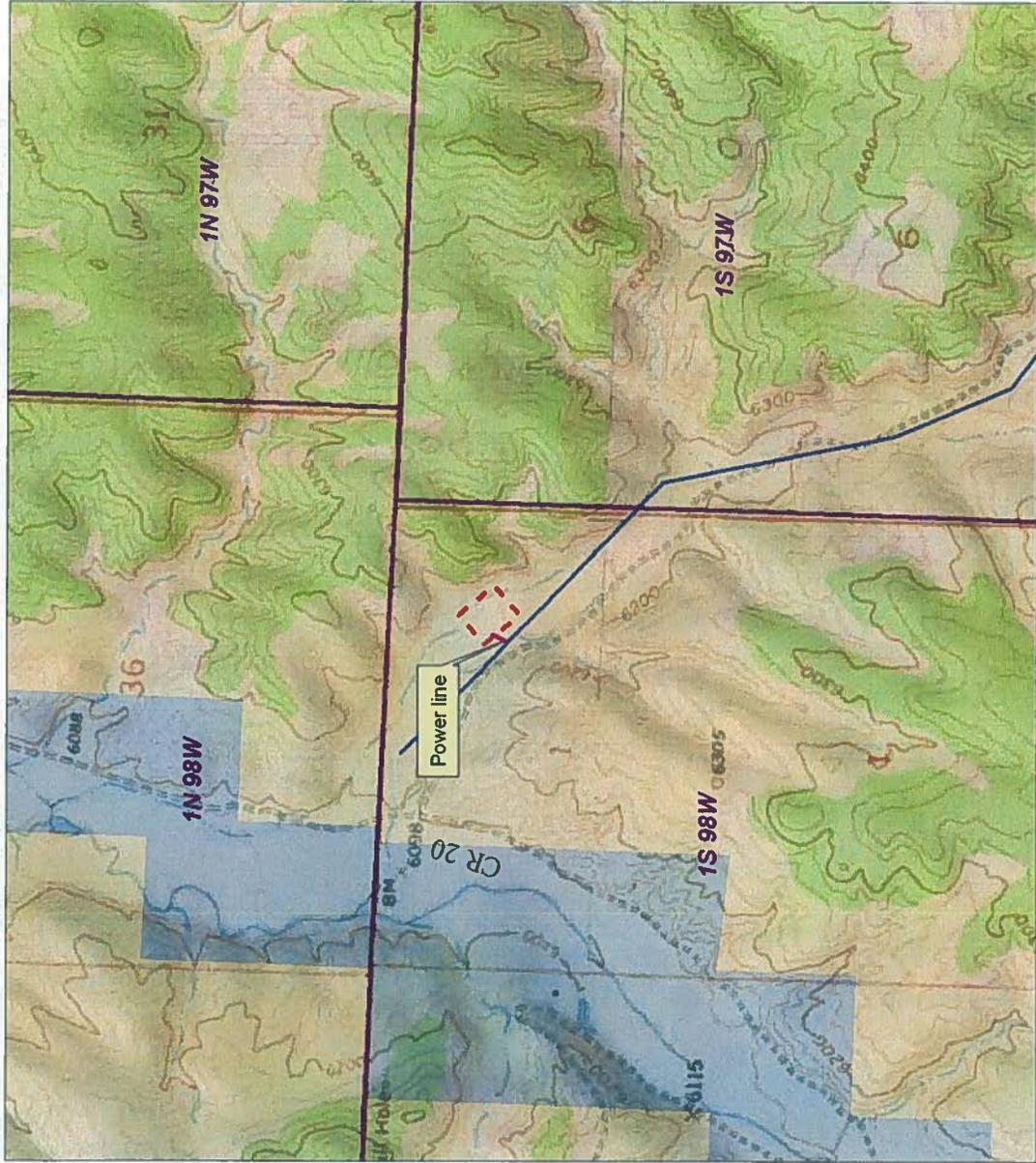
ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit A - Map of Proposed Action
- Exhibit B - Map of Special Status Plant Populations

Note: The signed Conclusion in this DNA Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

# Overhead Power Line To BOPCO 1-41-1 Disposal Well T. 1 S., R. 98 W., sec. 1

## EXHIBIT A



- ▬ BOPCO 1-41-1 disposal well pad
- ▬ COC000011
- ▬ P.L.S.S. (Township, COC002008)
- ▬ BLM
- ▬ COM
- ▬ County
- ▬ FDR
- ▬ NPS
- ▬ PFI
- ▬ STA



Source:  
BLM, USGS, COCOM, etc.  
Disclaimer:  
Although the data presented within this map, and the map itself, have been prepared or processed on computers of BLM, no warranty is made by BLM for the accuracy of the data or the use of this map, or the data represented, nor does the fact of distribution constitute or imply any such warranty.



January 2012

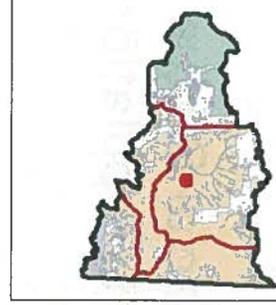


EXHIBIT B

# Special Status Plant Populations



**Legend**

- BOPCO 1-41-1 Disposal Well
- BOPCO 1-41-1 Disposal Well Power Line
- Electrical Power Lines
- ◆ Electrical Poles
- BLM Habitat Type
  - Occupied
  - Suitable
  - Potential



Sources:  
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

Disclaimer:  
Although the data presented in this map and the map data it contains were prepared or processed by the BLM, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by the BLM regarding the use of the map or the data presented in it, nor does the BLM intend to assume or imply any such warranty.

**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:** Power Line to BOPCO 1-41-1 Disposal Well

**DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0032-DNA

**DECISION**

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0032-DNA, authorizing the construction, operation, and maintenance of a power line to serve BOPCO's 1-41-1 disposal well.

**Mitigation Measures**

All applicable terms and conditions of right-of-way grant COC69581 shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect. All construction activity associated with the power line project shall take place before April 30, 2012.

**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 DNA will be posted on the WRFO website.

**RATIONALE**

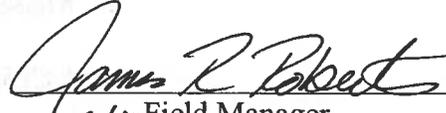
The proposal for the power line in concert with the applied mitigation conforms to the land use plan and the NEPA documentation previously prepared fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA. A new power line is needed to fulfill the electrical needs of BOPCO's 1-41-1 disposal well.

**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:**

  
Acting Field Manager

**DATE SIGNED:**

3/26/2012