

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-110-2012-0035-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC34317, COC34328, and COC34334

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of QEP Pipeline ROWs

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado

T. 3 S., R. 101 W.,
sec. 15, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 21, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 22, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

COC34317

T. 3 S., R. 101 W.,
sec. 33, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

COC34328

T. 2 S., R. 103 W.,
sec. 5, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 7, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 8, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

COC34334

APPLICANT: QEP Field Services Company

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: QEP Field Services Company (QEP) has submitted an application for renewal of three natural gas pipeline rights-of-way (ROWs): COC34317, COC34328, and COC34334 (see Exhibit A). No additional disturbance is authorized by this action, and all applicable terms and conditions of the original ROW grants and any amendments shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect. The ROWs would be renewed for a term of 30 years.

COC34317: The right-of-way for a natural gas pipeline to serve the #I-15 and #D-22 wells was issued on August 25, 1982. The ROW is 9,044 feet (1.7 miles) long, 50 feet wide, and contains approximately 10.38 acres.

COC34328: The right-of-way for a natural gas pipeline to serve the #33-14 well was issued on October 18, 1982. The ROW is 4,700 feet long, 50 feet wide, and contains approximately 5.4 acres.

COC34334: The right-of-way for a natural gas pipeline to serve the #7-1 well was issued on October 5, 1982. The ROW is 8,228 feet (1.6 miles) long, 50 feet wide, and contains approximately 9.4 acres.

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		X

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
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 1/31/2012. 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	3/29/2012
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	2/2/2012
Zoe Miller	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	5/1/2012

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: **COC34317:** The pipeline was inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level (Gardner 1982) prior to construction with no sites identified during the inventory; however, that inventory does not meet current, modern standards. There should be no new impacts to known cultural resources from right-of-way renewal. However, there could be impacts to unrecorded sites if disturbance for maintenance is required.

COC34328: The pipeline was originally inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian)

level prior to construction in 1982 with negative results (Martin 1982, compliance dated 7/15/1982). The inventory does not meet current standards, but since no new surface disturbance is involved in the renewal, there should be no impacts to any cultural resources.

COC34334: The proposed renewal area has been covered by three Class III (100 percent pedestrian) inventories (Black 1982, compliance dated 7/2/1982; Collins and Bowen 2008, compliance dated 2/13/2009; Nickens 1986, compliance dated 4/8/1986). Two of the inventories do not meet modern standards. One site has been identified in the project area and is currently listed as Need Data by the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). If any maintenance work is needed in the site area, additional work, including but not limited to data recovery excavations, will be needed.

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: **COC34317:** The proposed pipeline is located in an area generally mapped as the Upper Mesa Verde formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM WRFO has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation, meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c f., Armstrong and Wolny 1989). At the time the pipeline was constructed, the BLM was not actively managing fossil resources, and no monitoring or inventory was conducted. Renewing the right-of-way will not have any impacts on fossils; however, if maintenance requiring excavations is needed, a monitor would be required.

COC34328: The pipeline crosses two formations, the Wasatch and the Douglas Creek member of the Green River formation (Tweto 1979). The BLM WRFO has classified the formations as PFYC 5 and PFYC 4 respectively, meaning both formations are known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. The BLM was not actively managing fossil resources at the time the pipeline was installed. If any maintenance involving excavations are needed, monitoring will be required.

COC34334: The pipeline is located in an area generally mapped as the Douglas Creek member of the Green River formation (Tweto 1979), which the BLM WRFO has classified as a PFYC 4 formation, meaning it can produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c f., Armstrong and Wolny). At the time the pipelines were installed, the BLM was not managing paleontological resources. Renewing the pipeline, in and of itself, will not impact any fossil resources; however, any maintenance work has the potential to impact noteworthy fossil resources.

Special Status Wildlife Species: There are no threatened or endangered animal species that are known to inhabit or derive important use from the project area nor are there any additional wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

Special Status Plant Species: There are no special status plant species issues or 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.

Black, Kevin D.

1982 Cultural Resource Inventory for Mountain Fuel Supply Co. Pipeline Lateral to Serve the MFS Federal 7-1 Well pad. Metcalf-Zier Archaeologists, Inc., Eagle, Colorado.

Collins, Gary D, and Kristin Bowen

2008 A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Hell's Hole Twin Buttes Allotment Boundary Fence , BLM-White River Field Office, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado. (8-10-04: SHPO #RB.LM.r1101)

Gardner, A. Dudley

1982 Survey of Mountain Fuel Gas Pipeline to Bear Tooth Well. Western Wyoming College, Rock Springs, Wyoming. (82-12-03: SHPO #RB.LM.NR288)

Martin, Curtis W.

1982 Inspection of Proposed pipeline connecting Gas Wells Federal #33-14 and #N34-3-101 in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for Beartooth Oil & Gas Company of Billings, Montana. Grand River institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (82-11-18)

Nickens, Paul

1986 Well tie pipeline for TXO Hells Hole Federal #2. Nickens and Associates, Montrose, Colorado. (86-05-08: SHPO #RB.R294)

Tweto, Ogden

1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

MITIGATION:

1. All applicable terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in original ROW grants COC34317, COC34328, and COC34334 and any amendments shall 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. The inspection will result in the development of an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan submitted by the holder. 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 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 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.

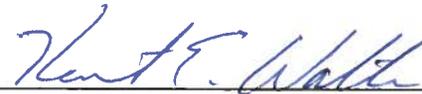
NAME OF PREPARER: Stacey Burke

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, 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

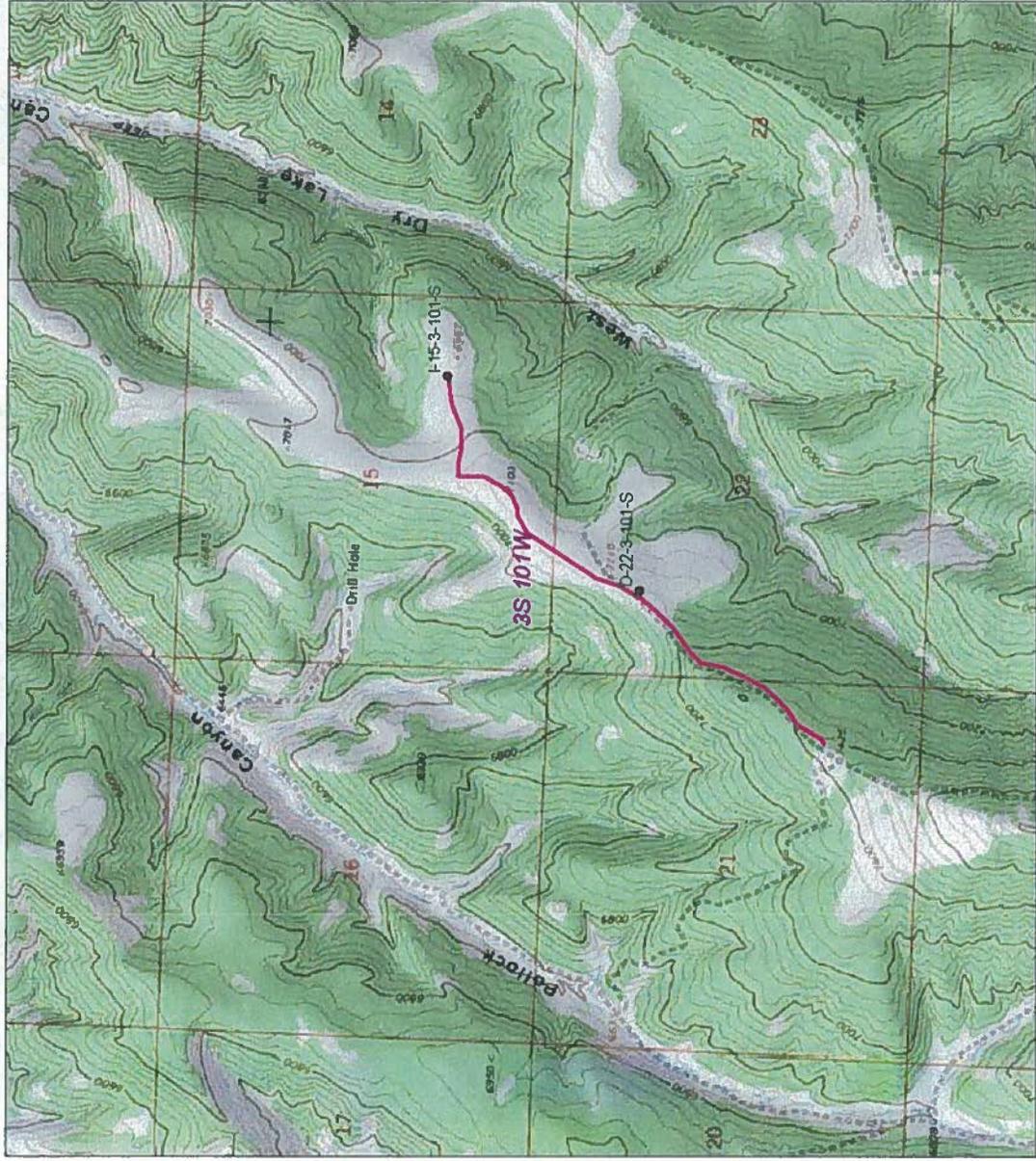
DATE SIGNED:

07/16/12

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A - Maps of Proposed Action

Renewal of Pipeline ROW COC34317
 T. 3 S., R. 101 W.

EXHIBIT A



Renewal of Pipeline ROW COC34328
T. 3 S., R. 101 W.

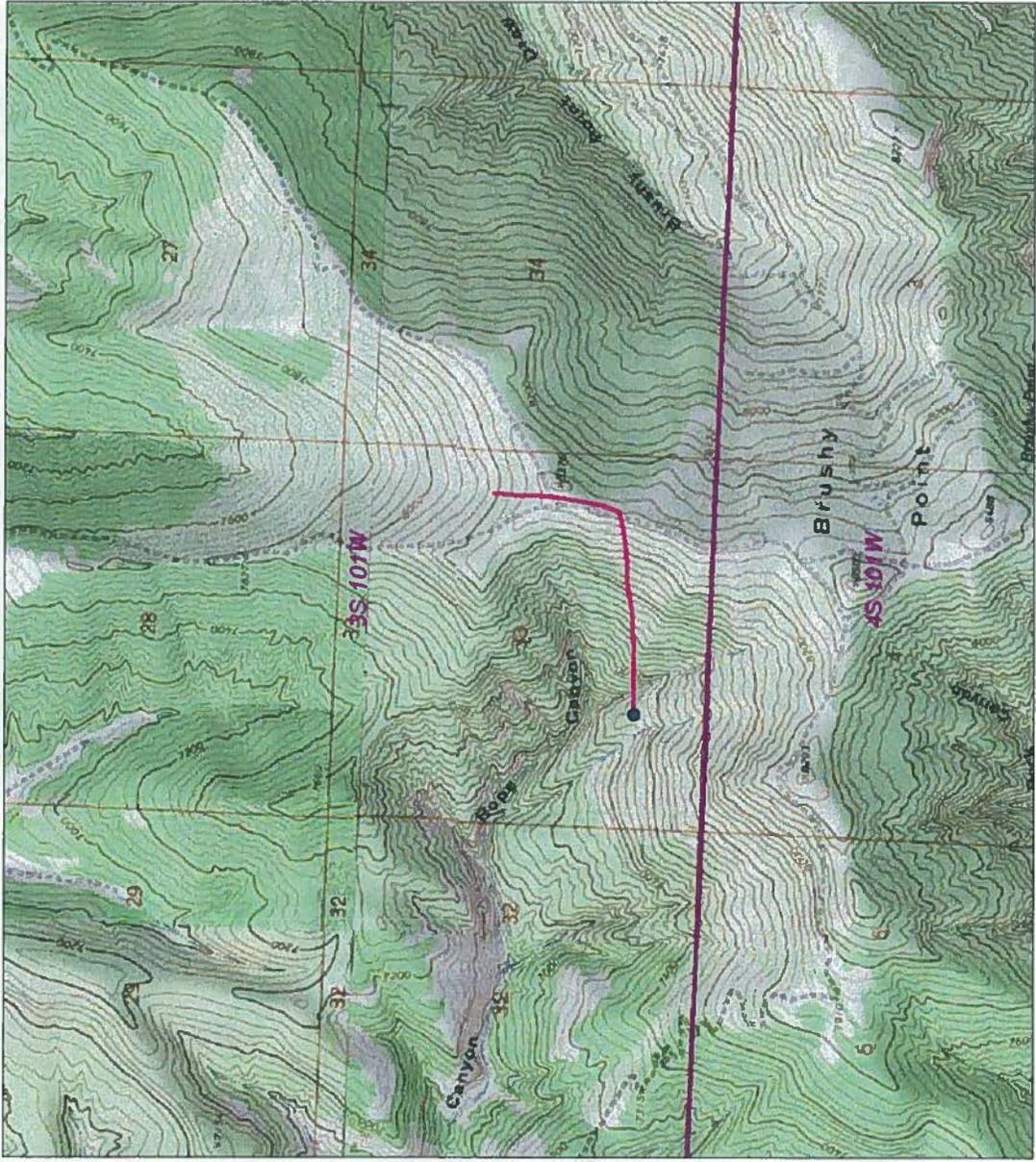


EXHIBIT A



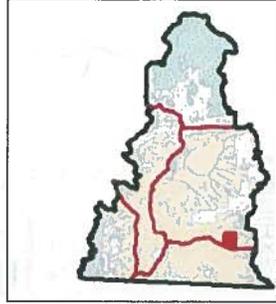
- 825-14 well
- COC34328
- R433_Territory_01082008



Source:
BLM, USGS, CDOPW, etc.
Disclaimer:
Although the data presented in this map, and other map based, information, were prepared or provided by BLM, no warranty is made by BLM for the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the data represented, nor does the BLM of distribution constitute or imply any such warranty.

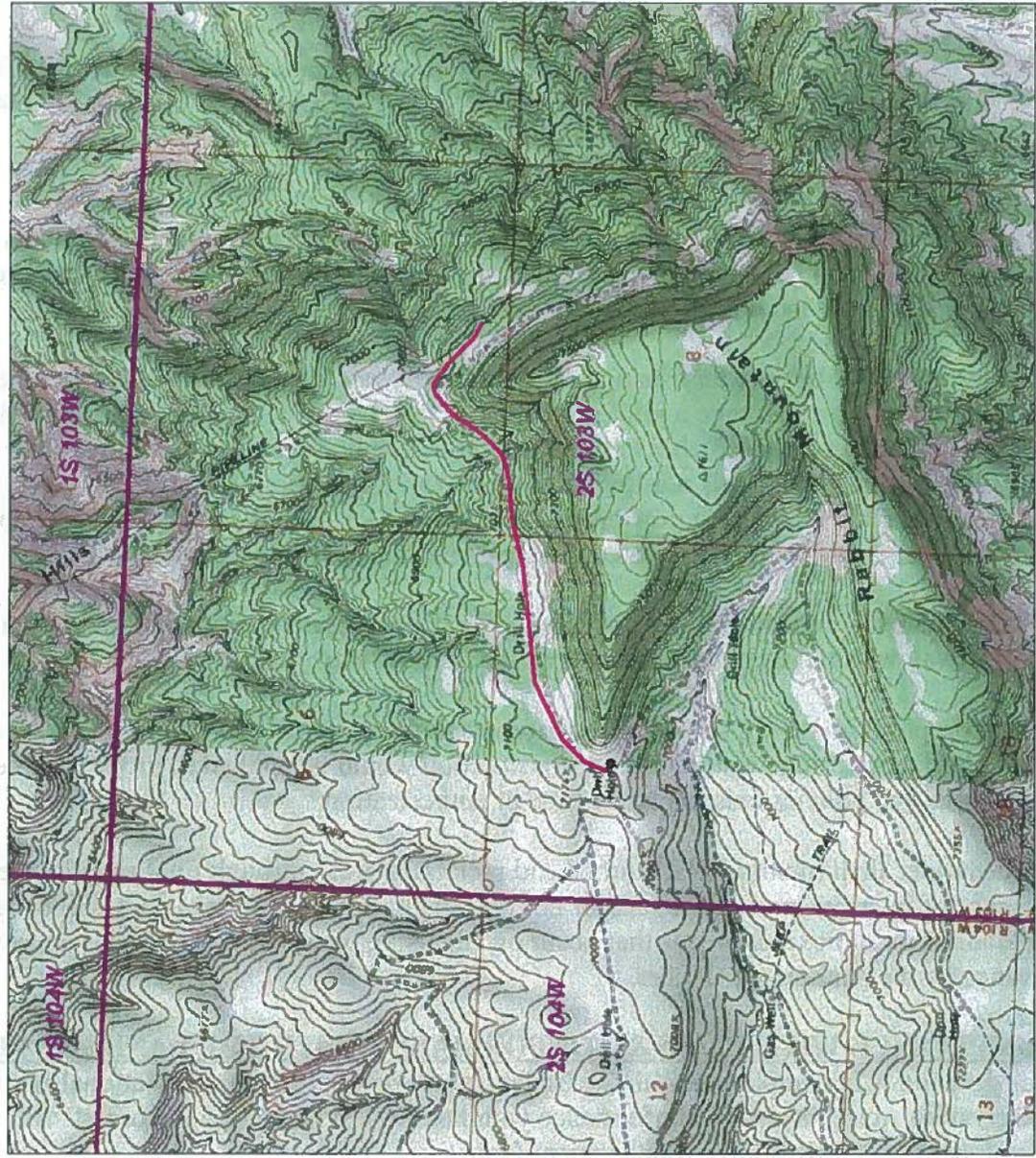


January 2012



Renewal of Pipeline ROW COC34334
T. 2 S., R. 103 W.

EXHIBIT A



- IR 1 mile
- COC34334
- RLS_10mstep_0000000



Source:
BLM, FWS, CROW, etc.
Disclaimer: Data presented on this site map, and the map itself, have been processed or imported, as necessary, on computers at BLM, in order to be presented or printed. It is made by BLM regarding the use of this data, and the user assumes all liability for distribution, accuracy, or timely use of such data.



January 2012



**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: Renewal of QEP Pipeline ROWs

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0035-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0035-CX, authorizing the renewal of rights-of-way COC34317, COC34328, and COC34334 for continuing operation and maintenance of natural gas pipelines.

Mitigation Measures

1. All applicable terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in original ROW grants COC34317, COC34328, and COC34334 and any amendments shall 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. The inspection will result in the development of an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan submitted by the holder. 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 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 2/2/2012 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:

07/16/12

