

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

## **DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA)**

**NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0099-DNA

**CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:** COC-60657  
COC75540 (Well Pad ROW)  
COC75541 (Water Pipeline ROW)  
COC75541-01 (Temporary Use Permit)

**PROJECT NAME:** WPX Energy Rocky Mountain LLC (WPX) Federal 299-27-6 Injection Well Conversion and Water Line Connection

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** T2S, R99W, Sec.27, NENW

**APPLICANT:** WPX Energy Rocky Mountain LLC

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:** WPX requests permission to convert the Federal 299-27-6 well to an injection well for water disposal. WPX additionally requests to install a buried water line in the existing rights-of-way (ROWs) from the previously approved Federal 299-27-5 injection well to the proposed federal 299-27-6 well (See Figure 1). No additional surface disturbance would be required to convert the Federal 299-27-6 gas well to an injection well, or to install water lines in the existing ROW zones.

**Design Features:** The water line would be 4,143 ft in length and would be buried to a minimum depth of 5 ft. within an existing working ROW width of 60 ft. and a permanent ROW width of 30 ft.

**Decision to be Made:** The BLM will decide whether or not to permit the conversion of the Federal 299-27-6 well to an injection well and whether or not to permit the buried water line connecting the Federal 299-27-5 injection well and the Federal 299-27-6 well. The BLM will also decide if any mitigation is required.

**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 2-5

Decision Language: "Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values."

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

List by name and date all existing National Environmental Policy Act (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: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2005-141-EA

Date Approved: 9/21/2005

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?

Yes. The Proposed Action is similar in location and nature to what has been previously analyzed. The Proposed Action requires burying a pipeline between the Federal 299-27-5 and 299-27-6 wells, in addition to converting the Federal 299-27-6 gas well into an injection well. An existing NEPA document closely resembles the Proposed Action. The DOI-BLM-CO-110-2005-141-EA analyzed burying pipeline in the same corridor where the connection-line is proposed to be buried. No disturbance beyond the approved ROW zone would occur due to construction of the buried of the connection line.

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 No Action Alternative) were analyzed in the DOI-BLM-CO-110-2005-141-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?

A new list of BLM sensitive species has been generated since the Finding of No Significant Impact was published for the DOI-BLM-CO-110-2005-141-EA in September of 2005, but this new information does not change the type of impacts identified in the DOI-BLM-CO-110-2005-141-EA. Environmental surface conditions remain comparable in ecological function and form.

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?

Yes. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts related to disturbance in ROW zones were analyzed and mitigated in the DOI-BLM-CO-110-2005-141-EA, which approved the existing ROW where the applicant proposes to bury the proposed connection line.

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

Yes. Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the WRFO interdisciplinary team on 6/5/2012. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line NEPA register on 6/7/2012.

#### **INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:**

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the WRFO interdisciplinary team on 6/5/2012. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the WRFO. 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	6/14/2012
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	07/17/2012
Amber Shanklin	Biological Technician - Plants	Special Status Plant Species	06/11/2012

**REMARKS:**

*Cultural Resources:* The subject well pad locations and the access roads have been inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level (Conner 2005 compliance dated 8/23/2005, Scott 1992 compliance dated 6/26/1992). These inventories did not identify any cultural resources before construction was permitted. There would be no impacts to known cultural resources from the proposed project.

*Mitigation:*

1. WPX 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. WPX 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. WPX, 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.

*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 route for the pipeline for the injection well is located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979). The BLM, WRFO has classified the Uinta Formation as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation. PFYC 5 formations are known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c.f. Armstrong and Wolny 1989). Excavating into the underlying sedimentary rock to bury the proposed waterlines may impact scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. Any impacts to fossil

resources as a result of pipeline trench excavation could result in an irreversible and irretrievable impact to the local paleontological database.

*Mitigation:*

1. WPX 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.
2. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, WPX 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.

*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. The project area falls within priority sage-grouse habitat as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Sage-grouse are a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act and considered sensitive by the BLM. An active lek is located approximately three miles from the project area. The project area lies along the edge of an old burn and is broadly surrounded by pinyon-juniper woodlands. The project area itself is minimally suited for sage-grouse occupation and based on telemetry data from CPW, sage-grouse use in the area is concentrated over three miles further up ridge, with no evidence of use in the immediate vicinity of the project area. The Proposed Action would not involve any additional surface disturbance and would have no influence on sage-grouse populations or habitats important to this species.

A raptor survey was conducted on May 11, 2012. One unoccupied nest was observed, however no active nests were documented within the 0.25 mile survey area (WestWater 2012).

*Threatened and Endangered 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

Conner, Carl E.

2005 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for Three Wells (Fed. 299-27-5, Fed. 299-27-6, Fed 299-22-1) in the Ryan Gulch and Stake Springs Draw Ares of Rio Blanco County, Colorado for Riata Energy, Inc. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (05-11-25: SHJPO #RB.LM.NR1718)

Davenport, Barbara

2012 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for the Proposed 299-27-6 Water Line (2400 feet) in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for WPX Energy Rocky Mountain. LLC. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (12-11-17: SHPO #RB.LM.NR2310)

Scott, John M.

1992 Northern Geophysical of America Seismic Lines 143 and 145 Cultural Resource Inventory, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado. (92-54-21: SHPO # RB.LM.R481)

Tweto, Ogden

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

WestWater Engineering

2012 Biological Survey Report for WPX Energy's 229-27-5 to 27-6 Right-of-Way. WestWater Engineering, Grand Junction, CO.

## MITIGATION:

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in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

3. WPX 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.
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The following applicable mitigation from DOI-BLM-CO-110-2005-141-EA has been carried forward:

5. The operator will be responsible for complying with all local, state, and federal air quality regulations as well as providing documentation to the BLM that they have done so.
6. To minimize production of fugitive dust, vehicle speeds must not exceed 15 mph or dust plumes must not be visible at speeds appropriate for road design. The application of a dust suppressant (e.g. water or "Dust Stop") will be required during dry periods when dust plumes are visible at speeds less than or equal to 15 mph.
7. The operator will be required to monitor the project area for a minimum of three years post disturbance and eradicate all noxious and invasive species which occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.
8. The applicant shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the Proposed Action.
9. No operations using chemical processes or other pollutants in their activities will be allowed to occur within 200 feet of any water bodies. The operator will be responsible for complying with all local, state, and federal water quality regulations as well as providing documentation to the BLM that they have done so.
10. Complete reclamation will follow abandonment of well pads and access roads. Access roads and well pads will be recontoured, flow deflectors and sediment traps (woody debris) will be evenly redistributed over all disturbed areas, and 100% of disturbed surfaces will be revegetated with Native Seed Mix #3.
11. To mitigate contamination of local ground water, environmentally unfriendly substances (e.g. diesel) must not be allowed to contact soils. The use of impermeable matting under equipment is suggested to intercept such contaminants prior to contacting soils. Furthermore, all pits must be lined and all wastes associated with construction and drilling will be properly treated and disposed of. Finally, aquifers beneficial for human

consumption and livestock encountered during the drilling process must be properly sealed to reduce potential for contamination.

#### Pre-Reclamation Notification

12. The designated Natural Resource Specialist will be notified 24 hours prior to beginning all reclamation activities associated with this project via email or by phone. Reclamation activities may include, but are not limited to, seed bed preparation that requires disturbance of surface soils, seeding, constructing exclosures (e.g., fences) to exclude livestock from reclaimed areas.

#### Reclamation/Vegetation

13. All seed tags will be submitted to the designated Natural Resource Specialist within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended via Sundry Notice. The sundry will include the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding well pad cut and fill slopes, seeding pipeline corridor, etc.). In addition, the SN will include the well or well pad number associated with the seeding activity, if applicable, the name of the contractor that performed the work, his or her phone number, the method used to apply the seed (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), whether the seeding activity represents interim or final reclamation, an estimate of the total acres seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.

#### Information Sharing & Reclamation Monitoring

14. In an attempt to track interim and final reclamation of federal actions related to the development of federal mineral resources, the operator shall submit Geographic Information System (GIS) data to the White River Field Office (WRFO) for any post construction (i.e., “as-built”) polygon feature that was included in the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) or Sundry Notice, and associated with the proposed action. GIS polygon features may include, but are not limited to, constructed access roads, existing roads that were upgraded, pipeline corridors, and well pad footprints. Geospatial data shall be submitted: for each completed activity; electronically to the designated BLM staff person responsible for the initial submitted request; and, in accordance with WRFO geospatial data submittal standards (available from WRFO GIS Staff). If the operator is unable to send the data electronically, the operator shall submit the data on compact disk(s) to:

BLM, White River Field Office  
220 East Market Street  
Meeker, Colorado 81641

These data shall be submitted within 14 calendar days from the time when construction-related activities have ended for all geographic features associated with the approved action, or as stipulated by the BLM if the data are not received as intended. If the operator is unable to submit the required information within the specified time period, the operator shall notify the designated BLM staff person via email or by phone, and provide justification supporting an extension of the required data submission time period.

Internal and external review of the reporting process and the adequacy of the associated information to meet established goals will be conducted on an on-going basis. New information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the request, as appropriate. Subsequent permit application processing may be dependent upon successful execution of this request, as stated above. Internal and external review of the reporting process and the adequacy of the associated information to meet established goals will be conducted on an on-going basis. If for any reason the location or orientation of the geographic feature associated with the proposed action changes, the operator shall submit updated GIS data to BLM, WRFO within 7 calendar days of the change. This information should be submitted via Sundry Notice.

The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically via email and as a hard-copy to WRFO Reclamation Coordinator, Brett Smithers (brett\_smithers@blm.gov). Please submit the hardcopy to:

BLM, White River Field Office  
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15. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted annually for all actions that require disturbance of surface soils on BLM-administered lands as a result of the proposed action. Actions may include, but are not limited to, well pad and road construction, construction of ancillary facilities, or power line and pipeline construction. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted by September 30th of each calendar year, and will include the well number, API number, legal description, UTM coordinates (using the NAD83 datum, Zone 13N coordinate system), project description (e.g., well pad, pipeline, etc.), reclamation status (e.g., Phase I Interim, Phase II Interim, or Final), whether the well pad or pipeline has been re-vegetated and/or re-contoured, percent of the disturbed area that has been reclaimed, method used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., qualitative or quantitative), technique used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., ocular, line-intercept, etc.), date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydro-seeded, etc.), and contact information for the person(s) responsible for developing the report. The report will be accompanied with maps and GIS data showing each discrete point (i.e., well pad), polygon (i.e., area where seed was applied for Phase I and/or Phase II interim reclamation or area reclaimed for final reclamation), or polyline (i.e., pipeline) feature that was included in the report.

Geospatial data shall be submitted: for each completed activity electronically to the designated BLM staff person responsible for the initial request and in accordance with WRFO geospatial data submittal standards (available from WRFO GIS Staff, or on the WRFO website). Internal and external review of the WRFO Reclamation Status Report, and the process used to acquire the necessary information will be conducted annually, and new information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the report.

16. The operator will be required to meet with the WRFO reclamation staff in March or April of each calendar year and present a comprehensive work plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide information pertaining to reclamation activities that are expected to occur during the current growing season. Operators shall also provide a map that shows all reclamation sites where some form of reclamation activity is expected to occur during the current growing season.

**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.

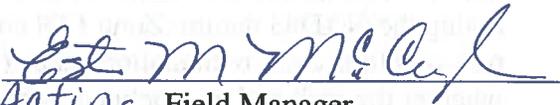
**NAME OF PREPARER:** Christina J. Barlow-Ashley

**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:** 7/27/12

**ATTACHMENTS:** Figure 1. Plan of Development Map

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.

Figure 1. Plan of Development Map



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JUN 31 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:** WPX Federal 299-27-6 Injection Well Conversion and Water line Connection

**DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0099-DNA

**DECISION**

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0099 DNA, authorizing the placement of a buried pipeline in the existing ROW between the Federal 299-27-5 and 299-27-6 well pads, as well as the conversion of the existing Federal 299-27-6 gas well to an injection well.

**Mitigation Measures**

1. WPX 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.
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The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically via email and as a hard-copy to WRFO Reclamation Coordinator, Brett Smithers (brett\_smithers@blm.gov). Please submit the hardcopy to:

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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**

Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the White River Field Office (WRFO) interdisciplinary team on 6/5/2012. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 6/7/2012. No comments or inquiries were received as of 7/24/2012.

**RATIONALE**

Allowing for the conversion of the existing Federal 299-27-6 gas well into an injection well would reduce water-hauling traffic, the generation of dust from the traffic, and traffic congestion. Allowing for the placement of the buried line between the Federal 299-27-5 and Federal 299-27-6 injection wells would allow a more rapid rate of water disposal. No additional surface disturbance is required to allow for the conversion of the Federal 299-27-6 gas well into an injection well, or to place the buried line in the existing ROW between the two existing well pads.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

**State Director Review**

Under regulations addressed in 43 CFR 3165.3(b), any adversely affected party that contests a decision of the Authorized Officer may request an administrative review, before the State Director, either with or without oral presentation. Such request, including all supporting documentation, shall be filed in writing with the BLM Colorado State Office at 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 within 20 business days of the date such decision was received or considered to have been received. Upon request and showing of good cause, an extension may be granted by the State Director. Such review shall include all factors or circumstances relevant to the particular case.

**Appeal**

Any party who is adversely affected by the decision of the State Director after State Director review, under 43 CFR 3165.3(b), of a decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to the regulations set out in 43 CRF Part 4.

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:**

*Est M M. Cyl*  
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Acting Field Manager

**DATE SIGNED:** 7/27/12