

**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-110-2012-0137-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC71054

PROJECT NAME: Addition to Existing Building at Greasewood Compressor Station

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 2 S., R. 96 W.,
sec. 5, lot 26.

APPLICANT: Questar Pipeline Company

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Right-of-way (ROW) COC71054 was issued to Questar Pipeline Company (Questar) on August 28, 2008. The ROW is for the Greasewood compressor station and connecting pipelines. The Greasewood compressor station is approximately 2.286 acres.

Questar proposes to construct a 15 ft by 20 ft addition to the existing control building at the Greasewood compressor station (Exhibit A). All disturbance will be within the existing site, which has road/rock base currently throughout the entire fenced parcel. Construction would begin in October 2012 and should be completed within two to three weeks.

No upgrades or additional disturbance outside of the existing Greasewood compressor station is authorized by this action. All applicable terms and conditions of the right-of-way grant 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, E13: “*Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-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

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
1) 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 10/2/2012. 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	10/5/2012
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	10/5/2012
Zoe Miller	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	11/1/2012

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The proposed building site has been covered by all or parts of two Class III (100 percent pedestrian) inventories (Hauck 2001, compliance dated 6/11/2011 and Piontkowski 1998, compliance dated 11/4/1998). No cultural resources have been identified at the proposed building location. There should be no new impacts to cultural resources from construction of the building addition.

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 new building is located in an area generally mapped as the Uintah formation (Tweto 1979), which the BLM WRFO has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation. The Uintah formation is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c.f., Armstrong and Wolny 1989). Paleontological monitoring of construction within less than one quarter mile of the proposed new building has resulted in the identification of fossils including *Uintatherium anceps*, fish, turtles, small mammals, and crocodylians (Bilbey et al 2009, compliance dated 4/8/2009, Bilbey et al 2011 compliance dated 4/26/2011). Therefore, if it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock formations to construct the footers for the new building, there is a very high likelihood of impacting scientifically noteworthy fossil resources.

Any impacts to fossil resources as a result of construction would likely represent an irreversible and irretrievable loss of data to the regional fossil database. Monitoring might lessen the loss; however, the loss would still occur.

Special Status Wildlife Species: The Proposed Action would be wholly entrenched within an existing industrial facility and would have no effective influence on surrounding wildlife resources.

Special Status Plant Species: There are no special status plant species concerns associated with the current Proposed Action. However, future activities may require special status plant species surveys and mitigation measures if populations are identified (see Mitigation #2 below).

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.

Bilbey, Sue Ann, Evan Hall, Pat Monaco and Quinn Hall

2011 Paleontological Final Monitoring Report: Exxon Mobil Corporation PCU 296-5A pipeline, Township 2 South, Range 96 West, Sections 5 and 6, Bureau of Land Management, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Uinta Paleontological Associates, Inc., Vernal, Utah. (11-115-21: SHPO #RB.LM.R1242)

Bilbey, Sue Ann, Evan Hall, Quinn Hall, and Patricia Monaco

2011 Paleontological Final Monitoring Report: Exxon Mobil Corporation PCU 296-6B Pipeline and Associated Road Work, Township 2 South, Range 96 West, Section 6, Bureau of Land Management, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Uinta paleontological Associates, Inc., Vernal, Utah. (11-115-22: SHPO #RB.LM.R1245)

Bilbey, Sue Ann, Joshua A. Smith, Jordan Hall, Travis Estes, Quinn W. Hall, and Evan Hall

2009 Final Paleontological Monitoring Report: White River Hub, LLC White River Hub Project Sections 5, 6 and 7, Township 2 South, Range 96 West, Sections 1 and 2, Township 2 South, Range 97 West; Sections 28, 33, 34 and 35, Township 1 South, Range 97 West, Bureau of land management, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Uinta Paleontological Associates, Inc., Vernal, Utah. (09-115-11: SHPO # RB.LM.R1122)

Hauck, F. Richard

2001 Cultural Resource Evaluation of proposed Well Locations & Pipeline Corridors in the Magnolia Locality of Rio Blanco county, Colorado. Archeological-Environmental Research Corporations (AERC) Bountiful, Utah. (01-38-06: SHPO # RB.LM.NR1160)

Piontkowski, Michael

1998 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for the Proposed Greasewood Gulch Short Power Line Connection in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for White River Electric Association. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (98-11-09: SHPO #RB.LM.NR1039)

Tweto, Ogden

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

MITIGATION:

1. All applicable terms and conditions of right-of-way grant COC71054 shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.
2. The holder shall notify the authorized officer at least 60 days prior to non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance in the right-of-way. A "Notice to Proceed" shall be required prior to any non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance on the right-of-way. Any request for a "Notice to Proceed" must be made to the authorized officer, who will review the Proposed Action for consistency with resource management concerns such as wildlife, big game winter range, paleontology, special status species, and cultural resource protection. The authorized officer may require the completion of special status species surveys or other resource surveys by a third party contractor at the expense of the holder. Additional measures may be required to protect special status species or other resources.

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, E13. 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: *Kent G. Walker*
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: *11/05/12*

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A – Map of Proposed Action

**U.S. Department of the Interior
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Meeker, CO 81641**

DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: Addition to Existing Building at Greasewood Compressor Station

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0137-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0137-CX, authorizing the construction of an addition to the existing control building at the Greasewood compressor station.

Mitigation Measures

1. All applicable terms and conditions of right-of-way grant COC71054 are carried forward and remain in full force and effect.

2. The holder shall notify the authorized officer at least 60 days prior to non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance in the right-of-way. A "Notice to Proceed" shall be required prior to any non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance on the right-of-way. Any request for a "Notice to Proceed" must be made to the authorized officer, who will review the Proposed Action for consistency with resource management concerns such as wildlife, big game winter range, paleontology, special status species, and cultural resource protection. The authorized officer may require the completion of special status species surveys or other resource surveys by a third party contractor at the expense of the holder. Additional measures may be required to protect special status species or other resources.

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 10/10/2012 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, E13. 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:

11/05/12

