

**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-110-2013-0057-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-47675X

PROJECT NAME: 2013 Chevron Well Kill Communication Network Tower Installations

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T2N R102W Sec. 25, 26, 34, 36
T1N R102W Sec. 4

APPLICANT: Chevron USA, Inc

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Chevron is planning to install 6 (5 will be 50 feet tall and 1 will be 60 feet tall) towers for the field wide shutdown communication network (Figure 1, Table 1). The towers would be installed next to the vessels and facilities at existing locations. There will be no new surface disturbance. The tower foundation will be a cement pad approximately eight feet by eight feet and four and half feet in depth. They will hydrovac the pad area (eight feet by eight feet) down eight feet deep to ensure that there is no production piping that would be impacted. The bottom three and half feet will be “flow filled” with thicker than normal concrete to establish a more stable base than soil that would be repacked where the hydrovacating took place. Upon cure of the “flow fill”, the tower foundation will be poured and finished out.

The tower will be used to communicate out to the wells that produce to the station in order to shut down the well pumps to avoid an environmental release or spill (which could be a risk to public health and safety) and gather information from the injection well in this area. This communication network will also gather daily information in order to keep the field operator from making trips to each location every day.

Table 1: Well kill tower information.

Location	Tower Height	Coordinates
Collection Station 39	50 feet	40.10145951, -108.8006962
Collection Station 38 Header	50 feet	40.111900, -108.7960
FV Larson B22	50 feet	40.09974565, -108.7915323
Collection Station 33	50 feet	40.11347531, -108.8188244
Collection Station 30	60 feet	40.10196389, -108.8288453
Carney 37X4	50 feet	40.089200, -108.8434

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 2-5

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number (J-8). “Installation of minor devices to protect human life (e.g., grates across mines).”

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 the bureau.		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

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
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 March 19, 2013. 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 Wolfe	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	4/9/2013
Laura Dixon	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	3/27/2013
Baili Foster	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	3/25/2013

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The six tower locations are located in previously disturbed, bladed well pads where human activity within the past 50 years has created a new land surface to such an extent as to eradicate traces of cultural resources. No known cultural resources are located within the proposed area of impact. There will be no new surface disturbance. Because there always exists the possibility of inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources the following conditions of approval shall be followed:

1. The operator 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. The operator 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. The operator, 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.

3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the operator/ must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American concerns are known in the project area.

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. The area encompassing the Proposed Action contains mapped white-tailed prairie dog. White-tailed prairie dogs provide an important shelter and food source for black-footed ferrets and burrowing owls. There nearest (active in 2009) burrowing owl nest is approximately 0.80 miles away from the nearest tower. Since there will be new ground disturbance associate with the Proposed Action effects to white-tailed prairie dogs, ferrets and burrowing owls are not expected. There are no other wildlife related uses or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

Special Status Plant Species: There are no special status plant species within 600 meters of the project area therefore, there are no concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

MITIGATION:

1. The operator 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. The operator 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. The operator, 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.
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objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

4. Construction sites and all facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.
5. The towers shall be painted a BLM approved, dull, non-reflective color.
6. The holder must provide documentation that appropriate Federal Communications Commission (FCC) permitting has been approved. The holder shall at all times operate its radio-electronic equipment in such a manner as not to cause interference with radio-electronic operations of existing users in the vicinity. If such interference results from holder's operations, holder will promptly, at its own expense, modify its equipment and operations, or shut down if necessary, to eliminate or reduce the interference to the satisfaction of the FCC and/or the BLM.
7. Where applicable, new construction must meet Motorola R-56 standards per guidance from Instruction Memorandum 2010-073.
8. Before final abandonment, compaction of soils will be reduced around the base of the towers and all near surface concrete, concrete should be removed to the rooting depth of reclamation vegetation before seeding.

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: Ryan Snyder

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, J8. 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:

Thad E. Walter

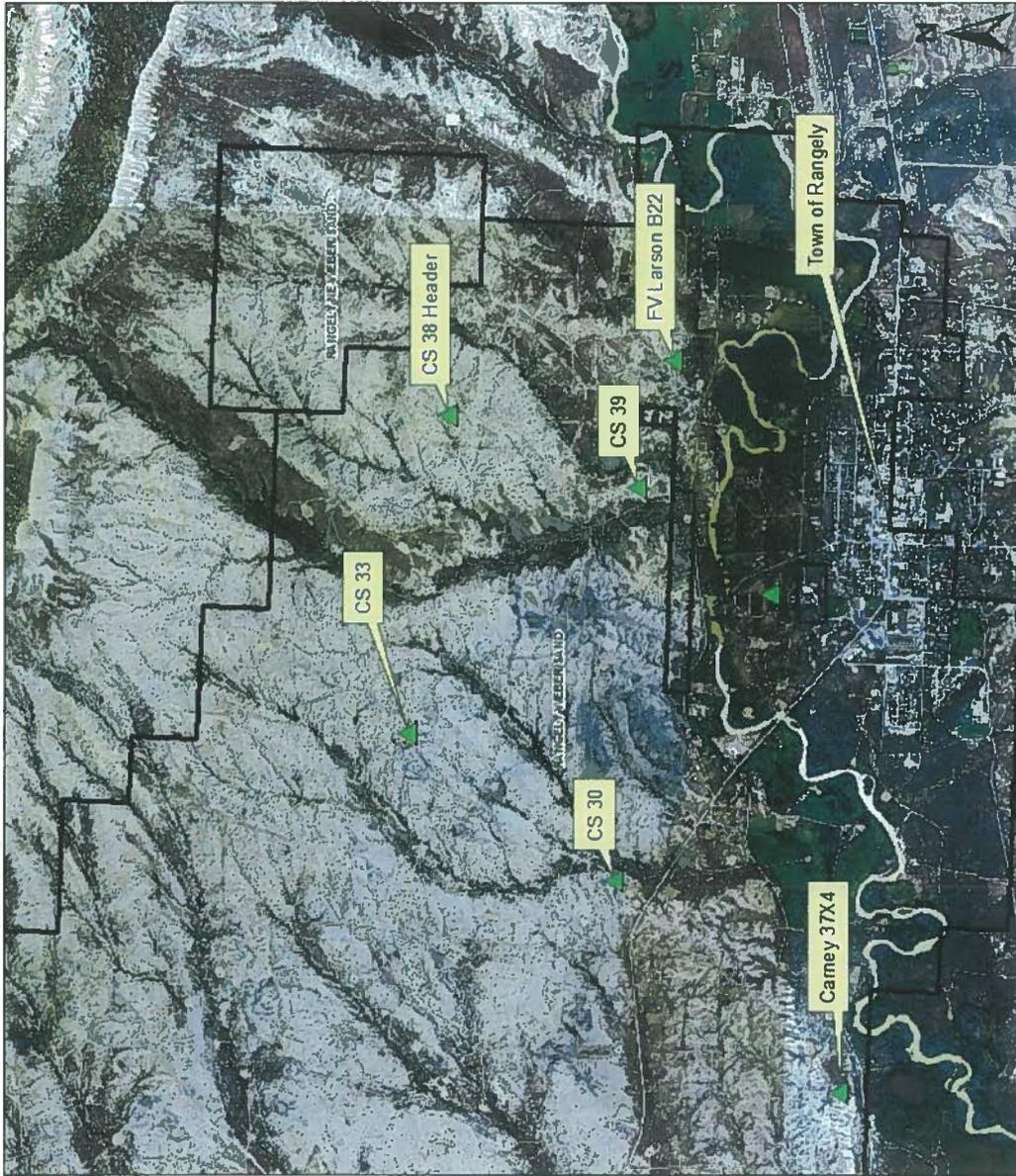
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

04/18/13

ATTACHMENTS:

Figure 1: Map of Proposed Tower Installations



Legend

- ▲ 2013 Well Kill Towers
- Rangely Weber Sand Unit



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No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Figure 1: Map depicting the location of the proposed installation of towers for the Rangely Weber Sand Unit well kill communication network.

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DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: 2013 Chevron Well Kill Communication Network Tower Installations

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-2013-0057-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2013-0057-CX, authorizing the installation, operation, and maintenance of six (five 50 foot towers and one 60 foot tower) well kill communication towers for Chevron's field wide well kill communication network.

Mitigation Measures

1. The operator 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. The operator 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. The operator, 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.
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4. Construction sites and all facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site.

"Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.

5. The towers shall be painted a BLM approved, dull, non-reflective color.
6. The holder must provide documentation that appropriate Federal Communications Commission (FCC) permitting has been approved. The holder shall at all times operate its radio-electronic equipment in such a manner as not to cause interference with radio-electronic operations of existing users in the vicinity. If such interference results from holder's operations, holder will promptly, at its own expense, modify its equipment and operations, or shut down if necessary, to eliminate or reduce the interference to the satisfaction of the FCC and/or the BLM.
7. Where applicable, new construction must meet Motorola R-56 standards per guidance from Instruction Memorandum 2010-073.
8. Before final abandonment, compaction of soils will be reduced around the base of the towers and all near surface concrete, concrete should be removed to the rooting depth of reclamation vegetation before seeding.

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 March 19, 2013 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website. As of April 16, 2013 no comments or inquiries have been received.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, J8. 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. Installation of the communication towers allows Chevron to shut off pumps at the wells in emergency situations if there are issues at the collection stations that may result in a release of fluids. An environmental release could be a risk to public health and safety.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

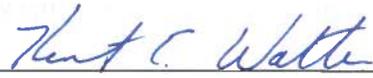
State Director Review

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: 
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 04/18/13