

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

Section 390

Categorical Exclusion for Oil and Gas Development

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0004-CX(390)

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-021408 (lease)

PROJECT NAME: Encana Federal N-34-3-101 – convert surface gas pipeline to a buried gas pipeline

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T3S, R101W, SESW S34, SESE S33

APPLICANT: Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. (Encana)

BACKGROUND: The existing surface line (gas) exists as a Right-of-Way (ROW) (COC-36320) and was issued on October 18, 1982 and reviewed and approved in Environmental Assessment CO-017-83-2. Encana requested relinquishment of the ROW in a letter received by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) White River Field Office (WRFO) on September 19, 2013. The ROW is no longer required as the pipeline is now on lease. Surface owner is BLM.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Encana will remove the existing surface poly pipeline and bury (three to four feet deep) a two inch coated steel pipeline from the Cathedral Federal N-34-3-101 well site (N-34) in T3S, R101W, SESW S34 for approximately 2,500 feet to the existing Questar gas measurement meter on top of the ridge in T3S, R101W, SESE S33 (see Figures 1 and 2). The width of the pipeline disturbance needed is 30 feet. The buried pipeline will carry gas.

Start Point: T3S, R101W, SESW S34

End Point: T3S, R101W, SESE S33

Disturbance Area Requested:

Disturbance Length (feet)	Disturbance Width (feet)	Depth Buried (feet)	Acres Disturbed
2,500	30	3-4	1.70

A brush beater will be used to remove the existing foliage leaving as much of the established root base intact to help with erosion control and to expedite regrowth of the existing plant life.

Due to the short timeframe prior to winter season, Encana requested an October approval if possible.

This gas gathering line will only serve the N-34.

Details of pipeline construction and reclamation:

I. Stage Number One: Dirt work and pipeline preparation

- A. Contact the BLM and Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission 24 hours prior to start of surface dirt work.
- B. Take the existing pipeline right-of-way back to natural repose as close as possible.
- C. There is an existing surface poly line that will be removed prior to excavation of the new pipeline.
- D. If topsoil is present, topsoil will be separated out and spread evenly across the reclaimed right-of-way.
- E. Stormwater control contour ditches will be cut on a level plain to control erosion and sediment flows from the ROW. Contour ditch dimension will be 12 inches deep, six inches tall, totaling 18 inches minimum, 18 inches deep and 8 to 10 inches tall totaling 26 to 28 inches maximum from top to bottom. Should the contour ditches still be visible at a time when 80 percent revegetation has been established, Encana will reclaim the ditches and reseed prior to submission of the Final Abandonment Notice (FAN). All stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) will comply with COGCC, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Onshore Order Number One. Stormwater management practices will be dictated by the individual constraints, such as: topsoil and sub-soil types, aspect, slope, length of slope, and average precipitation, however, typical stormwater management practices include surface roughening via ripped furrows on contour and other flow controls. Encana would also like to include the optional use of such BMPs such as wattles, erosion blankets, sediment ponds, and silt fencing. Encana would like to keep the option open for new technology that would improve the process.
- F. All seed beds will be prepared by contour ripping of the cut surface to 12 to 18 inches in depth. Contours will be shaped to natural repose of the reclaimed surface. Seeding will take place within 24 hours of completion of the dirt work, weather permitting. Should weather conditions or any unforeseen problems arise, the surface will be roughed up prior to seeding. Seed depth will be broadcast and dragged to a minimum depth of 0.25 inches and maximum 0.50 inches.
- G. When final abandonment of the well site occurs, the new pipeline being installed will be abandoned in place to prevent damage to growth on the ROW. Both ends will be exposed, cut off, line purged of fluids and capped.

II. Stage Number Two: Seeding of site

- A. Encana will broadcast and drag the pipeline ROW.
- B. All seed weight will be calculated in pounds per acre. Any area in which broadcasting and dragging of the seed is needed, it will be done at double the seed per acre. Broadcast and drag will only be used if the steepness of the topography will not allow for drilling. Hydro-seeding may also be used in extreme slope situations.
- C. All seed will be Certified Weed free and Pure Live Seed rated per BLM standards.
- D. All seed tags will be submitted with a Sundry Notice describing completed work within 14 days of completion of the work.
- E. In the event the BLM recommended seed mix does not match the site specific eco-tone and/or habitat type, Encana will request a site specific seed mix from the BLM.
- F. In the event a seed type and/or cultivar is not available, due to market price, crop failure and/or being phased out, due to more viable varieties, Encana will request a viable substitution from the BLM.
- G. Seeding may need to be repeated until successful. Encana will monitor and ensure successful vegetation establishment.
- H. BLM Seed Mix number seven will be used on this site:

Seed Mix	Cultivar	Species	Scientific Name	Application Rate (lbs PLS/acre)	
7		Letterman needlegrass	<i>Elymus lanceolatus ssp. lanceolatus</i>	3	
	San Luis	Slender Wheatgrass	<i>Elymus trachycaulus ssp. trachycaulus</i>	2	
	Whitmar	Bluebunch Wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. inermis</i>	4	
	Sodar	Streambank Wheatgrass	<i>Elymus lanceolatus ssp. psammophilus</i>	3	
		Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.5	
		Sulfur Flower Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	1	
	Alternates:				
	UP Plateau	Sandberg Bluegrass	<i>Poa secunda ssp. sandbergii</i>	0.5	
		Northern Sweetvetch	<i>Hedysarum boreale</i>	3	

III. Stage Number Three: Weed Management

- A. Encana will monitor, control and reduce the spread of noxious weed species within Encana’s disturbance as determined in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act and Rules pertaining to the administration and enforcement of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act for the life of the project until FAN is approved.
- B. Inspections for noxious weeds will be done monthly in conjunction with the Stormwater Management inspections.

- C. Encana will ensure that approved Pesticide Use Permits are in proper order prior to any application of herbicides.
- D. Encana may use mechanical weed removal where it is appropriate to prevent damage to desired plant life.

Decision to be Made: The Bureau of Land Management will decide whether or not to approve replacing the surface pipeline with a buried pipeline, and if so, under what conditions.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) 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 Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) prescribed five categorical exclusions (CX) for activities whose purpose is for the exploration of oil or gas.

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act, #1: *"Individual surface disturbances of less than five acres so long as the total surface disturbance on the lease is not greater than 150 acres and site-specific analysis in a document prepared pursuant to the NEPA has been previously completed."*

Documentation

The BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) provides specific instructions for using this CX.

1) *Is surface disturbance associated with the Proposed Action less than five acres?*

Yes, disturbance is proposed at 1.70 acres.

2) *Is there less than 150 acres of surface disturbance, including the Proposed Action, on the entire leasehold?*

Yes, surface disturbance calculated using BLM WRFO geospatial database on October 18, 2013 for lease COC-021408 is estimated at 37.6 acres.

3) *Is the Proposed Action within the boundaries of an area included in a site-specific NEPA document? (The NEPA document must have analyzed the exploration and/or development of oil and gas (not just leasing) and the action/activity being considered must be within the boundaries*

of the area analyzed in the environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The NEPA document need not have addressed the specific permit or application being considered.)

Yes, the Proposed Action is within the area of EA CO-017-83-2 and was approved on October 5, 1982.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 10/22/2013. A 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	10/29/2013
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Paleontological resources	10/30/2013
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	10/29/2013
Heather Woodruff	Range Management Specialist	Special Status Plant Species	10/23/2013

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The entire project area was inventoried at the Class III (intensive) level (Davenport 2013; compliance date 10/29/2013). No cultural resources are located in the proposed area of potential effect.

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 pipeline burial route is located in an area generally mapped as the Wasatch and lower Green River Formations (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formations meaning that they are known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c. Armstrong and Wolny 1989). Excavation into the underlying sedimentary rock formation to bury the pipeline has the potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossil resources.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: The Proposed Action involves no special status animals or their associated habitats. With regard to cumulative effects on local wildlife resources, particularly big game and migratory birds, WRFO would like to emphasize the proponent's intent (Proposed Action) to minimize the width of the ROW where established deciduous shrub root crowns would be excavated during corridor preparation. The WRFO agrees

that brush beating heavy deciduous shrub cover and driving over intact root crowns would promote rapid reestablishment of shrub cover that would, most importantly, deter subsequent vehicle use of the right-of-way's relatively mild 20-25 percent gradients (e.g., impacts associated with big game avoidance response and habitat disuse) and provide the most effective long-term form of erosion control. The WRFO encourages the proponent to offer innovative practices that would help to effectively deter subsequent vehicle use of the right-of-way prior to redevelopment of shrub canopies, but these practices must be reviewed by the WRFO for approval prior to their implementation.

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.

Davenport, Barbara

2013 Class III CRI for the proposed reclamation of the pipeline to the Federal N-34-3-101 well in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for Encana Oil and Gas (USA), Inc. [RB.LM.NR2379; WRFO 13-11-14]. Manuscript on file at BLM-White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden

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

MITIGATION:

1. Consistent with those reclamation practices offered by the proponent in establishing their Proposed Action and wildlife issues (remarks) addressed in the Categorical Exclusion, the proponent is expected to implement measures that would promote rapid redevelopment of deciduous shrub canopies within the right-of-way corridor (i.e., brush-beating and not excavating shrub root crowns outside the trench and stormwater features) and, to the extent practicable, employ practices that deter subsequent vehicle use of the right-of-way corridor.
2. Because there always exists the possibility of inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources the following conditions of approval shall be followed:
 - a) 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 Authorized Officer (AO). Encana 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. Encana, 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.

- b) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), Encana 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 10.4I and (d), Encana must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
 - c) Encana is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the projects that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts. If archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, Encana must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.
3. The operator/holder 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 25 lbs./day, up to 250 lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
 4. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the operator/holder 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.
 5. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring of construction, installation and post-installation (production) activities will be conducted by White River Field Office staff during installation of the pipeline and production use associated with the pipeline. Specific mitigation developed in the associated Categorical Exclusion and the lease terms and conditions 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.

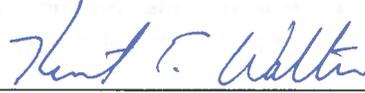
NAME OF PREPARER: Jay Johnson

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 Section 390 of the Energy Policy.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



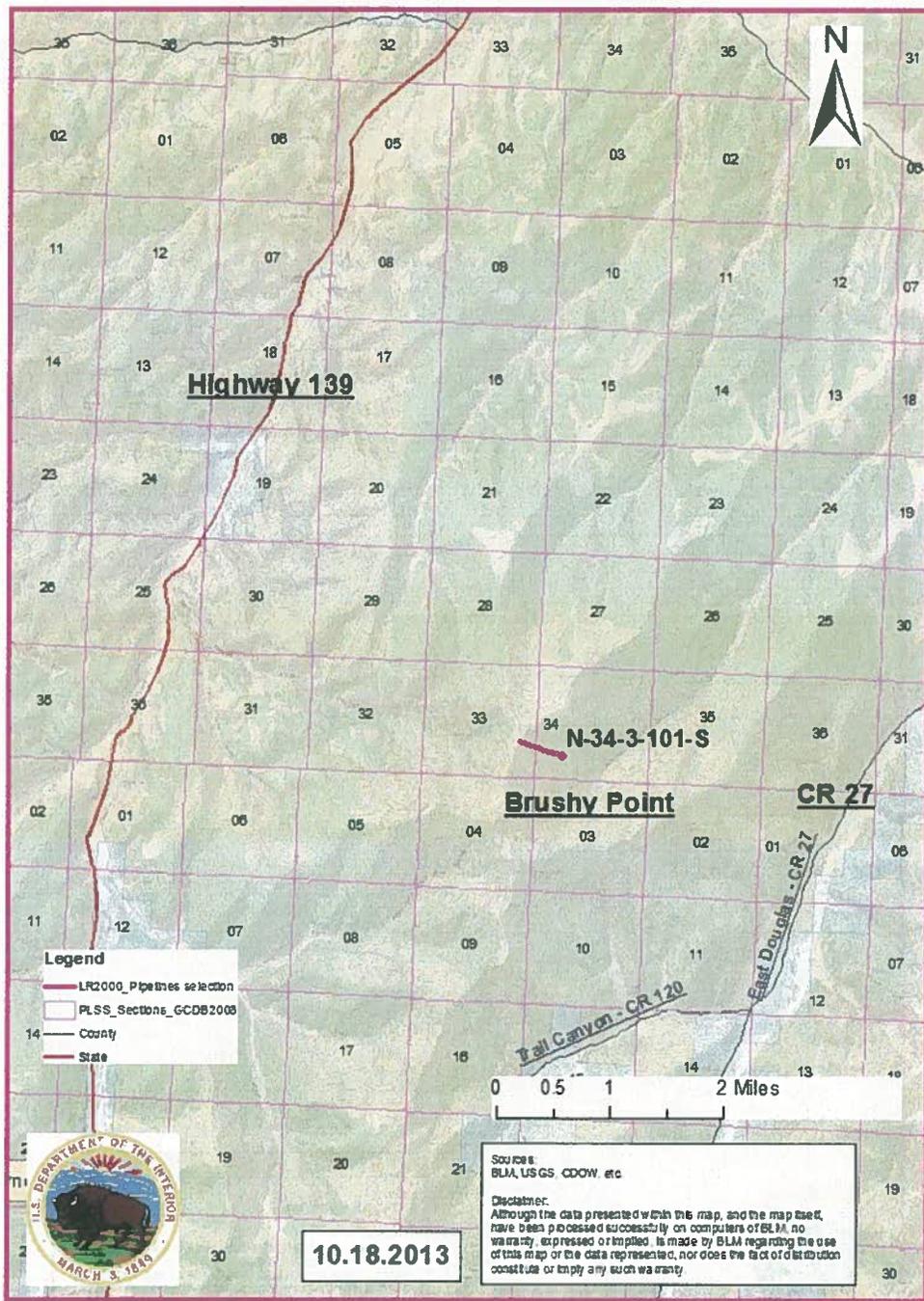
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

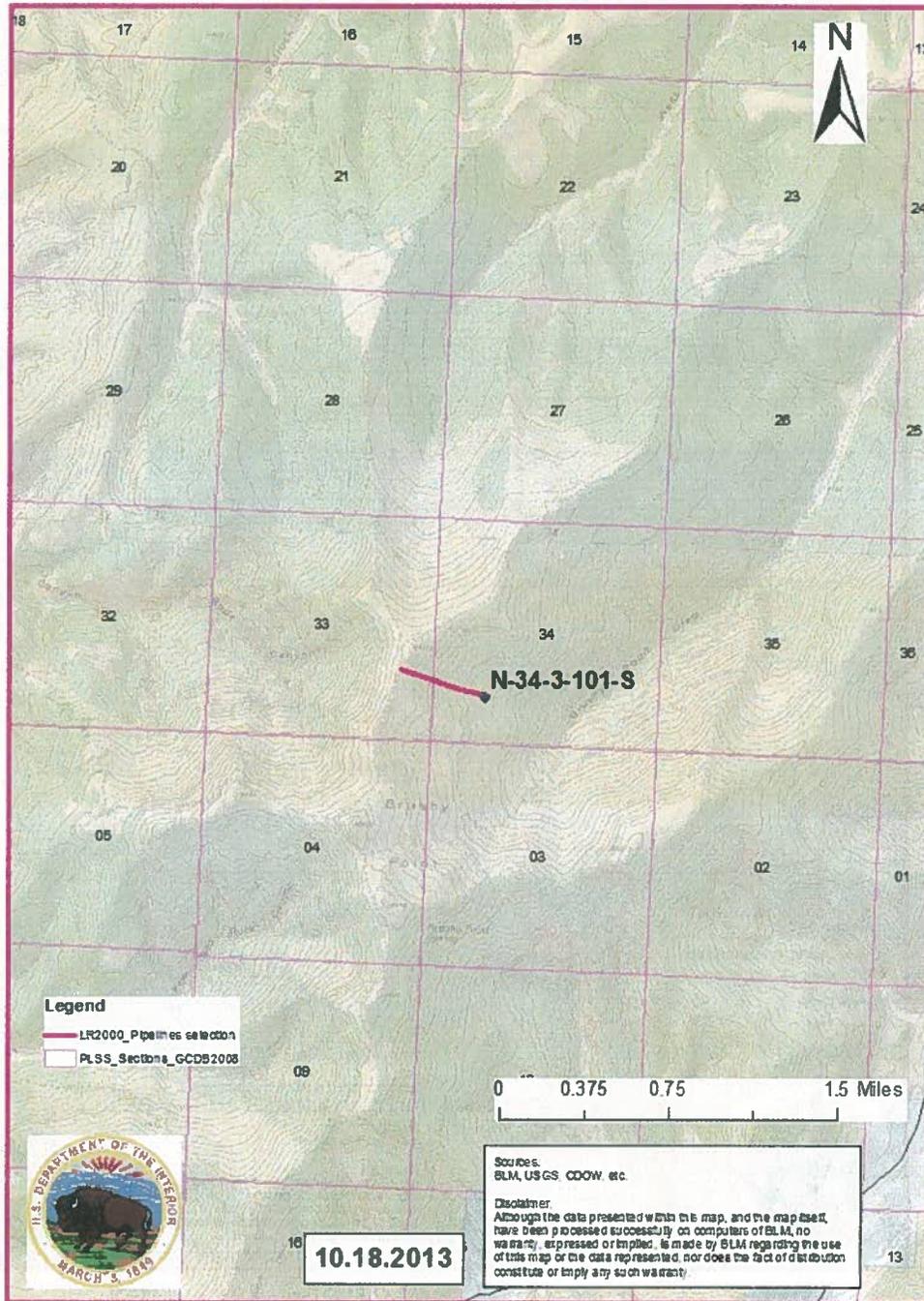
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ATTACHMENTS: Figure 1
Figure 2

**Figure 1 - DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0004-CX(390)
 Encana Federal N-34-3-101 bury existing surface pipeline
 T3S, R101W. SESW S34. SESE S33**



**Figure 2 - DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0004-CX(390)
 Encana Federal N-34-3-101 bury existing surface pipeline
 T3S, R101W. SESW S34. SESE S33**



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DECISION

PROJECT NAME: Encana Federal N-34-3-101 – convert surface gas pipeline to a buried gas pipeline

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0004-CX(390)

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0004-CX(390), authorizing the removal of the existing surface pipeline, and installation, construction, operation, and maintenance of the buried pipeline for Encana's Federal N-34-3-101 well.

Mitigation Measures:

1. Consistent with those reclamation practices offered by the proponent in establishing their Proposed Action and wildlife issues (remarks) addressed in the Categorical Exclusion, the proponent is expected to implement measures that would promote rapid redevelopment of deciduous shrub canopies within the right-of-way corridor (i.e., brush-beating and not excavating shrub root crowns outside the trench and stormwater features) and, to the extent practicable, employ practices that deter subsequent vehicle use of the right-of-way corridor.
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drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

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 5. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.

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 10/22/2013. A copy of the completed CX will be posted on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act. Removing a surface pipeline in favor of a buried gas pipeline also reduces hazards for wild land firefighters.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

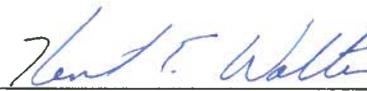
State Director Review

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:

10/31/13

