



Revised Appendix 13

Overland Pass Pipeline Company Piceance Basin Lateral Project

Winter Contingency Plan

October 2008

**Overland Pass Pipeline Company Piceance Basin Lateral Project
Winter Contingency Plan**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Winter Contingency Plan (Plan) identifies measures to be taken by Overland Pass Pipeline Company LLC (OPPC) and its contractors (Contractor) in the event construction of the Overland Pass Piceance Basin Lateral occurs when snow is present on the ground and/or the soils are frozen deeper than three inches below the surface. Measures identified in this Plan apply to work within the project area defined as the right-of-way, access roads, temporary use areas, and other approved areas used during construction of the project on all lands administered by the BLM. Winter construction techniques on non-federal lands will be based upon conditions placed upon the OPPC by the landowner.

OPPC and its Contractors are expected to be thoroughly familiar with this Plan and its contents, and adequately equipped for winter construction conditions prior to initiating construction on the project.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to outline procedures to be followed in frozen, snowy or spring runoff conditions in order to minimize impacts to environmental resources.

2.0 FROZEN CONDITIONS

“Frozen conditions” will be defined as the presence of frozen soils to a depth of two inches or more below the surface. The following measures will be taken if construction occurs during frozen conditions:

- Topsoil salvage and segregation is required as described in Section 3.2 of the main Plan of Development (POD).
- OPPC will rip frozen topsoil prior to stripping to allow for more effective separation from the subsoil. If soils are frozen to the extent that effective segregation of subsoil and topsoil can not be accomplished without mixing, the topsoil salvage operation will cease until soil conditions improve so the operation can be accomplished in accordance with the topsoil segregation requirements.
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- OPPC will leave breaks in topsoil and subsoil piles as necessary to facilitate cross-right-of-way drainage, prevent impoundment of precipitation event and snowmelt runoff, and allow passage of livestock and wildlife where trench plug crossings have been installed, as required.
- If cleanup or reclamation activities are delayed due to weather conditions, the disturbed areas will be stabilized with mulch, soil tackifier or other approved materials in order to reduce the potential for erosion of exposed soils.
- During hydrostatic test discharge in freezing temperatures, dissipation devices and other erosion and sedimentation control structures will be inspected regularly to ensure they are in proper working order.

- OPPC will, to the extent possible, remove snow from the trench before the pipe is lowered in to minimize the potential for subsidence due to snowmelt.
- OPPC will, to the extent possible, prevent snow from mixing with subsoil during the trench backfilling operation. If excess spoil remains after backfilling, the trench line will be crowned in an effort to offset subsidence.
- Salvaged topsoil will be not redistributed where backfilling occurred during frozen conditions until subsidence can be assessed and, if necessary, repaired the following spring after soils have thawed.

Re-grading of the right-of-way after winter backfilling will be performed to standard POD specifications.

3.0 SNOW MANAGEMENT AND STORAGE

OPPC will implement some or all of the following methods following significant snow events:

- OPPC will remove, blade or pack snow on the working side of the right-of-way to improve driving conditions, when necessary.
- OPPC will limit snow removal from the non-working (spoil) side of the right-of-way. Excess snow that could affect backfilling and right-of-way recontouring will be removed to no closer than 3-4 inches of the soil surface to leave a buffer layer to minimize the potential for blading and mixing of the topsoil and subsoil.
- Access roads will be cleared of snow as needed to allow for safe access to and from the right-of-way.
- Snow removal equipment activities must only occur within the approved right-of-way and access road boundaries.
- Snow blading and removal will be limited to the movement of snow. Blading and removal activities must not result in soil or vegetation being pushed, dumped or blown beyond the original approved right-of-way and access road boundaries. Snow blading and removal that results in significant deposition of soil and vegetation, as determined by the Compliance Monitor, outside of the approved workspace on federal lands will result in the issuance of a noncompliance and a halt to the activity until a resolution is discussed.

- In the event of a heavy snow accumulation:
 - snow may be pushed or lifted and dumped, and stored on an additional 25-foot wide area adjacent to the existing right-of-way provided:
 - equipment tracks and vehicle tires remain within the original approved right-of-way or access road boundaries;
 - no soil or vegetation is pushed off right-of-way;
 - no cultural resources will be adversely impacted;
 - no threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or their habitat will be adversely impacted; and
 - breaks are left or created in windrowed snow piles to align with gaps in soil piles and trench plugs previously installed to allow cross-ROW wildlife passage.
 - OPPC may remove snow from the ROW and deposit it off ROW using a snow blower without restrictions regarding the distance from the right-of-way to the deposited snow provided:
 - the Contractor ensures that soil and cleared vegetation is not being blown with the snow; and
 - the blown snow is spread relatively evenly to minimize damage to off-right-of-way woody vegetation or other resources.
- The Contractors' use of snow removal methods that will result in off-right-of-way damage to or disturbance of vegetation or soils will necessitate OPPC's submittal and BLM approval of a variance request for each additional temporary use area prior to the operation of equipment to operate beyond the original approved workspace.

4.0 EROSION CONTROL

Temporary and permanent erosion control and stabilization methodologies shall be implemented in accordance with the POD. Erosion control structures and other BMPs will be closely monitored during snow melt.