

# United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

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Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM- NM-P020-2015-0605-EA

## Devon Energy Production Company, L.P. NM-133973 and NM-133973-01 Cotton Draw Gathering

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Bureau of Land Management  
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### Confidentiality Policy

Any comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, you submit may be made available for public review. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Carlsbad Field Office



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# 1. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

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## 1.1. Background

Devon Energy Production Company, L.P. (Devon) has submitted an SF-299 (Application for Transportation and Utility Systems on Public Lands) to the BLM, Carlsbad Field Office (CFO), requesting permission to construct, operate, terminate and maintain 27 buried pipelines: two 16" steel gas pipelines, eight 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipelines, five 6" Poly flow Thermoflex pipelines, five 4" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline, two 12" steel gas pipelines, three 10" steel gas pipelines, and two 20" steel gas pipelines under a right-of-way authorization. The general location is approximately 20 miles southeast of Malaga, NM. The legal land description of the proposed right-of-way infrastructure is described as follows:

### **Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy and Lea Counties

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec. 1, N2N2

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 6, N2N2  
Sec. 5, N2N2  
Sec. 4, NW

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 33, SWSW

### **Lippizzan 4 Fed 1H Battery Connect**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 33, SWSW

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 4, NWNW

### **Lippizzan Lateral East Segment #2**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 33, SWSW

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 4, N2N2  
Sec. 3, N2NW, E2NW, E2SW  
Sec. 10, E2W2

### **CDU 237H Battery Connect**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 10, S2SW

### **CDU 33 State Fed Com 1 Battery**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 33, W2W2, NENW

### **CDU 32 State Fed 3H Com Battery Connect**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 32, N2SE, NESW  
Sec. 33, NWSW

**CDU 32 State Fed 1H Com Battery Connect**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

- T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,
- Sec. 32, NESE
- Sec. 33, NWSW

**Cotton Draw Trunkline North Segment #2**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

- T. 24 S., R. 31 E.,
- Sec. 36, E2W2
- Sec. 25, E2SW, SENW
  
- T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,
- Sec. 1, Lot 3

**Cotton Draw Trunk Line Segment 1**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

- T. 24 S., R. 31 E.,
- Sec. 36, SESW
  
- T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,
- Sec. 1, N2NW, SWNW, W2SW
- Sec. 2, NE
- Sec. 12, W2NW, NWSW

**Big Sinks Draw Trunk**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

- T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,
- Sec. 12, W2SW
- Sec. 13, W2W2
- Sec. 24, W2W2
- Sec. 25, W2NW

**Big Sinks Draw 25 BS Battery Connect**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

- T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,
- Sec. 25, SWNW

**Belgian Shire Lateral**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

- T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,
- Sec 24, NWNW
- Sec. 23, N2N2, SWNW

**CDU 13-18 Lateral**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

- T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,
- Sec 12, S2S2

**CDU 172 Lateral**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

- T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,
- Sec 12, N2N2

**1.2. Purpose and Need for Action**

The purpose of the action is to provide reasonable access across BLM-managed lands for two 16" steel gas pipelines, eight 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipelines, five 6" Polyflow Thermoflex pipelines, five 4" Poly SDR 7 SW lines, two 12" steel gas pipelines, three 10" steel gas pipelines, and two 20" steel gas pipelines. The need for the action is established under BLM's responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to respond to a request for a right-of-way grant for legal access.

### 1.3. Decision to be Made

Based on the information provided in this EA, the BLM Field Manager will decide whether to grant the right-of-way application with appropriate mitigation measures, or whether to reject it.

### 1.4. Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan(s)

The 1988 Carlsbad Resource Management Plan, as amended by the 1997 Carlsbad Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment and the 2008 Special Status Species Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment have been reviewed, and it has been determined that the proposed action conforms with the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

Name of Plan: 1988 Carlsbad Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: September 1988

Decision: [Page 10] "In general, public lands are available for utility and transportation facility development..." [Page 13] "BLM will encourage and facilitate the development by private industry of public land mineral resources so that national and local needs are met, and environmentally sound exploration, extraction, and reclamation practices are used."

Name of Plan: 1997 Carlsbad Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment

Date Approved: October 1997

Goal: [Page 4] "Provide for leasing, exploration and development of oil and gas resources within the Carlsbad Resources Area." The proposed action aids in the development of oil and gas resources and complies with the Surface Use and Occupancy Requirements.

Name of Plan: 2008 Special Status Species Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment

Date Approved: April 2008

Decision: [Page 5] "For all other projects in the Planning Area, public land will be open to the consideration of granting ROWs under the guidelines in Appendix 2 of the 1997 Roswell RMP and 1997 Carlsbad RMPA." [Page 6] "...ROWs will be granted only after site-specific analysis." The proposed action will utilize best management practices when developing oil and gas resources in Lesser Prairie-Chicken and Sand Dune Lizard Habitat. Special mitigation measures will be included into the Pecos District Conditions of Approval.

### 1.5. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations or Other Plans

The following is a list of statutes that may apply to a proposed action:

- **Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 USC 469)** - Provides for the preservation of historical and archeological data (including relics and specimens) which might otherwise be irreparably lost or destroyed as the result of (1) flooding, the building of access roads, the erection of workmen's communities, the relocation of railroads and highways, and other alterations of the terrain caused by the construction of a dam by any agency of the United States, or by any private person or corporation holding a license issued by any such agency or (2) any alteration

of the terrain caused as a result of any Federal construction project or federally licensed activity or program.

- **Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended (16 USC 470 et seq.)** - Secures, for the present and future benefit of the American people, the protection of archaeological resources and sites which are on public lands and Indian lands, and to foster increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities, the professional archaeological community, and private individuals.
- **Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended (42 USC 7401 et seq.)** - Defines EPA's responsibilities for protecting and improving the nation's air quality and the stratospheric ozone layer.
- **Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended (30 USC 1251)** - Establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters.
- **Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC 1531 et seq.)** - Protects critically imperiled species from extinction as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation.
- **Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 (16 USC 4301 et seq.)** - Protects significant caves on federal lands by identifying their location, regulating their use, requiring permits for removal of their resources, and prohibiting destructive acts.
- **Lechuguilla Cave Protection Act of 1993** - Protects Lechuguilla Cave and other resources and values in and adjacent to Carlsbad Caverns National Park.
- **Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 USC 703-712)** - Implements the convention for the protection of migratory birds.
- **Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970, as amended (30 USC 21)** - Fosters and encourages private enterprise in the development of economically sound and stable industries, and in the orderly and economic development of domestic resources to help assure satisfaction of industrial, security, and environmental needs.
- **National American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC 301)** - Provides a process for museums and Federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items such as human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony to lineal descendants, and culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations and includes provisions for unclaimed and culturally unidentifiable Native American cultural items, intentional and inadvertent discovery of Native American cultural items on Federal and tribal lands, and penalties for noncompliance and illegal trafficking.
- **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470)** - Preserves historical and archaeological sites.
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended (16 USC 1271 et seq.)** - Preserves certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations.
- **Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 USC 1131 et seq.)** - Secures for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.

## 1.6. Scoping, Public Involvement, and Issues

The Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) publishes a NEPA log for public inspection. This log contains a list of proposed and approved actions in the field office. The log is located in the lobby of the CFO as well as on the BLM New Mexico website ([http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/planning/nepa\\_logs.html](http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/planning/nepa_logs.html)).

The CFO uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in order to identify resources that may be affected by the proposed action. A map of the project area is prepared to display the resources in the area and to identify potential issues.

The proposed action was circulated among CFO resource specialists in order to identify any issues associated with the project. The issues that were raised include:

- How would air quality be impacted by the proposed action?

- How would climate change be impacted by the proposed action?
- How would range management be impacted by the proposed action?
- How would soils be impacted by the proposed action?
- How would vegetation be impacted by the proposed action?
- How would wildlife habitat be impacted by the proposed action?
- How would visual resources be impacted by the proposed action?
- Could noxious weeds be introduced to the project area as a result of the proposed action?
- How would cultural resources be impacted by the proposed action?
- How would Lesser Prairie-Chicken habitat be impacted by the proposed action?
- How would Secretary's Potash resources be impacted by the proposed action?

## 2. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE(S)

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### 2.1. Proposed Action

The BLM Carlsbad Field Office is proposing to allow Devon to construct, operate and maintain 27 buried pipelines: two 16" steel gas pipelines, eight 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipelines, five 6" Polyflow Thermoflex pipelines, five 4" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipelines, two 12" steel gas pipelines, three 10" steel gas pipelines, and two 20" steel gas pipelines.

The pipelines would cross federal, state, and privately owned lands in New Mexico. Total acreage of the entire project is 108.12 acres, with a total of 93.72 acres on federal land.

#### Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1

Devon plans to install a buried 16" steel gas pipeline and a buried 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from the Cotton Draw Unit #167 well to the surface valve site located in SWSW-Section 33-T24S-R32E. The pipeline would exit off the southeast corner of the well location and travel east for about 13,518.90 feet. The pipeline would turn southeast and travel for about 80.03 feet. The pipeline would turn northeast and travel for about 218.2 feet. The pipeline would turn east and travel for about 127.64 feet. The pipeline would turn northeast and travel for about 120 feet until it would intercept the surface valve site. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

The buried pipeline length is 14,064.77 ft. (2.7 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 14.5 acres, which includes three 30' x 30' surface valve sites and a 30' x 50' pig launcher site. An additional 0.43 acres would be disturbed on private land in Section 33-T24S-R32E for a 125' x 150' surface valve site. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

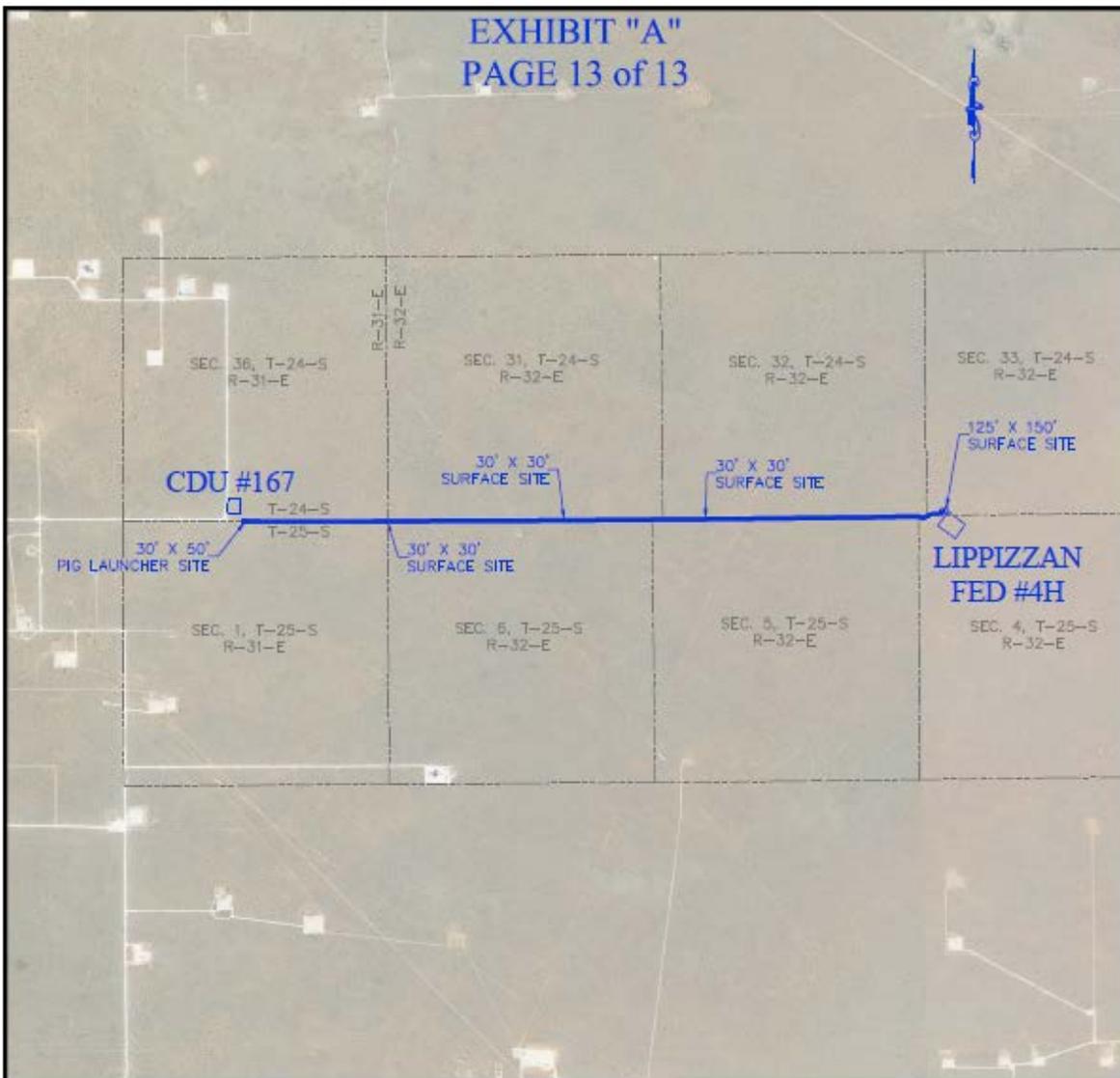
The legal lands description is located in Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec. 1, N2N2

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 6, N2N2  
Sec. 5, N2N2  
Sec. 4, NW

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 33, SWSW

EXHIBIT "A"  
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LIPPIZZAN LATERAL SEGMENT #1

SECTION 1, T25S-R31E, N.M.P.M.; SECTION 6, 5, 4, T25S-R32E, N.M.P.M.  
SECTION 33, T24S-R32E, N.M.P.M.

**HORIZON ROW LLC**  
DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION CO., L.P.  
PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT  
Drawn by: **NIMBLE MORGAN**  
Date: 12/09/2014

Drawn for:



LINE NUMBER:  
760002X\_Z  
WBS NUMBER:  
SCALE:  
1" = 3000'  
REVISIONS:  
12.29.14  
SHEET:  
13 OF 13

Lippizzan 4 Fed 1H Battery Connect

Devon plans to install a buried 6" Polyflow Thermoflex pipeline and a buried 4" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from an existing line on the Lippizzan Fed #4H well pad location to the tie-in point on the surface site of the Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1. The west leg of the pipeline would exit off the northwest corner of the well location and travel northwest for about 61.14 feet. The pipeline would turn northeast and travel for about 103.49 feet. The pipeline would turn northwest and travel for about 32.43 feet until it would intercept the surface site of the Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1. The east leg of the pipeline would exit off the north side of the well location and travel northeast for about 80.57 feet. The pipeline would turn northwest and travel for about 100.98 feet. The pipeline would turn west and travel for about 38.03 feet. The pipeline would turn southeast and travel for about 69.66 feet. The pipeline would turn northwest and travel for about 16.9 feet until it would intercept the surface site of the Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

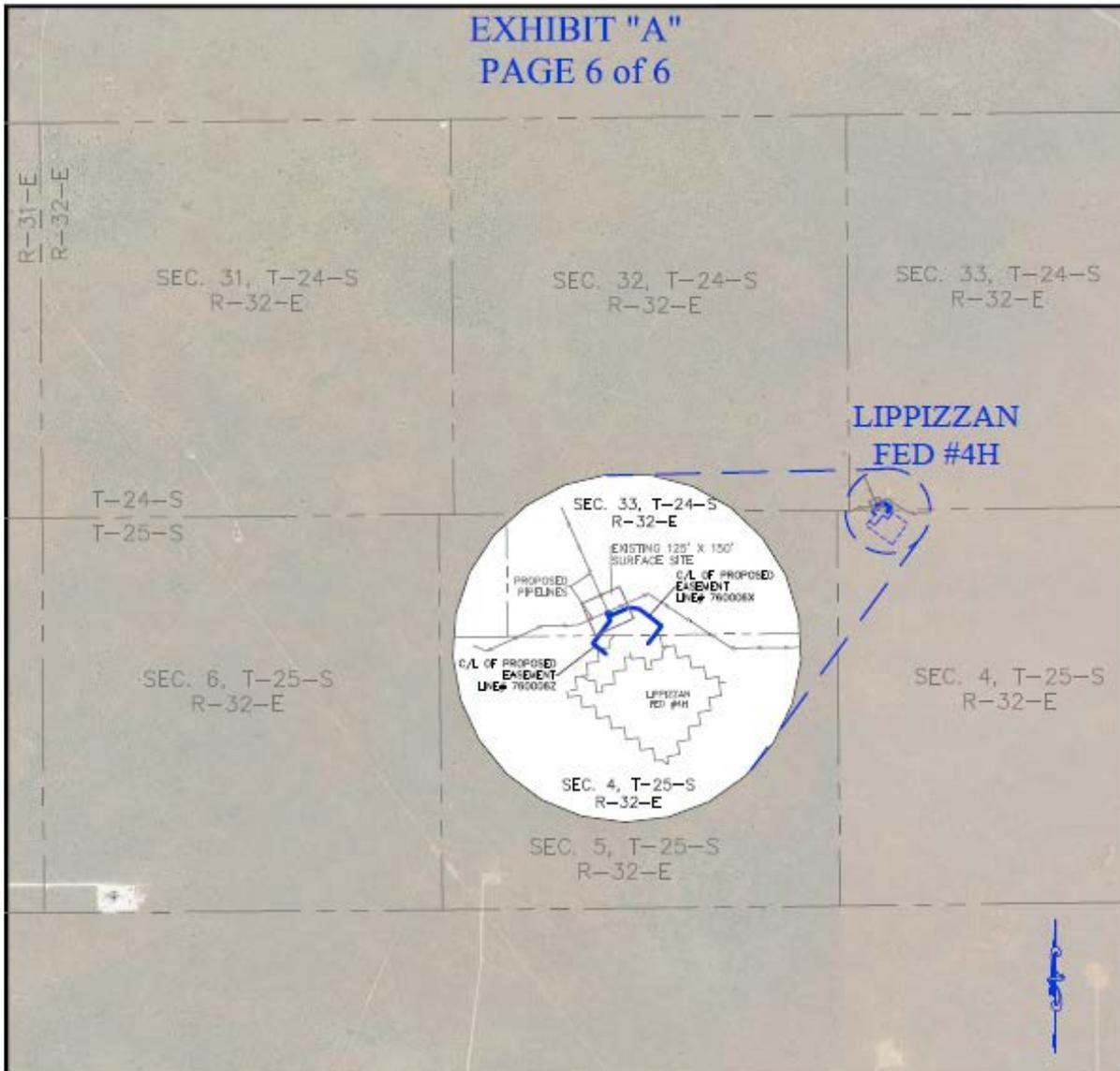
The buried pipeline length is 503.2 ft. (.09 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 0.52 acres. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Lea County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 33, SWSW

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 4, NWNW

EXHIBIT "A"  
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LIPPIZZAN 4 FED 1H BATTERY CONNECT

SECTION 33, T24S-R32E, N.M.P.M.  
AND  
SECTION 4, T25S-R32E, N.M.P.M.  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

<b>HORIZON ROW LLC</b>	
DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION CO., L.P. PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT	
Drawn by: RIMBLE MORGAN	Date: 12/09/2014

Drawn for:



LINE NUMBER: 760006X, Z
WBS NUMBER:
SCALE: 1" = 2000'
REVISIONS: 12.29.14
SHEET: 6 OF 6

Lippizzan Lateral East Segment #2

Devon plans to install a buried 12" steel gas pipeline and a buried 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from the tie-in point on the surface site of the Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1 to the tie-in point on the CDU 237H Battery Connect. The pipeline would exit off the northeast corner of the Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1 surface site and travel northeast for about 158.82 feet. The pipeline would turn southeast and travel for about 358.14 feet. The pipeline would turn east and travel for about 6,618.22 feet. The pipeline would turn southeast and travel for about 328.27 feet. The pipeline would turn south and travel for about 9,995.26 feet along an existing road until it would intercept the CDU 237H Battery Connect pipeline at the surface site. When the pipeline would follow existing roads, the pipeline would be routed 10 feet from and parallel to the existing roads. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

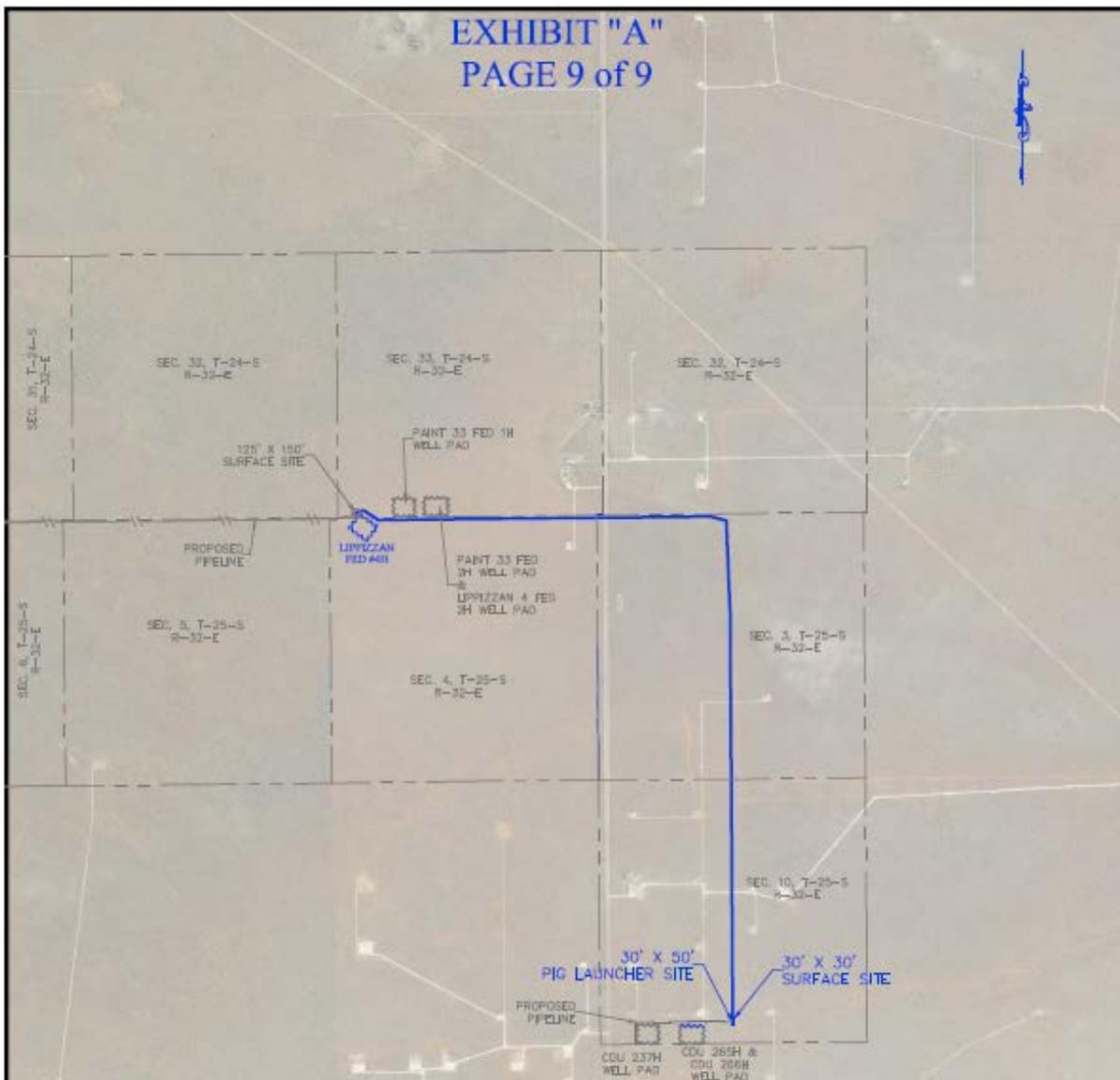
The buried pipeline length is 17,458.71 ft. (3.31 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 18.03 acres, which includes a 30' x 30' surface valve site and a 30' x 50' pig launcher site. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Lea County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 33, SWSW

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 4, N2N2  
Sec. 3, N2NW, E2NW, E2SW  
Sec. 10, E2W2

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LIPPIZZAN LATERAL EAST SEGMENT #2

SECTION 33, T24S-R32E, N.M.P.M.;  
SECTION 4, 3, 10, T25S-R32E, N.M.P.M.  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

<b>HORIZON ROW LLC</b>	
DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION CO., L.P.	
PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT	
Drawn by: NIMBLE MORGAN	Date: 12/19/2014

Drawn for:



LINE NUMBER: 260007XZ
WBS NUMBER:
SCALE: 1" = 3000'
REVISIONS: 12.30.14
SHEET: 9 OF 9

CDU 237H Battery Connect

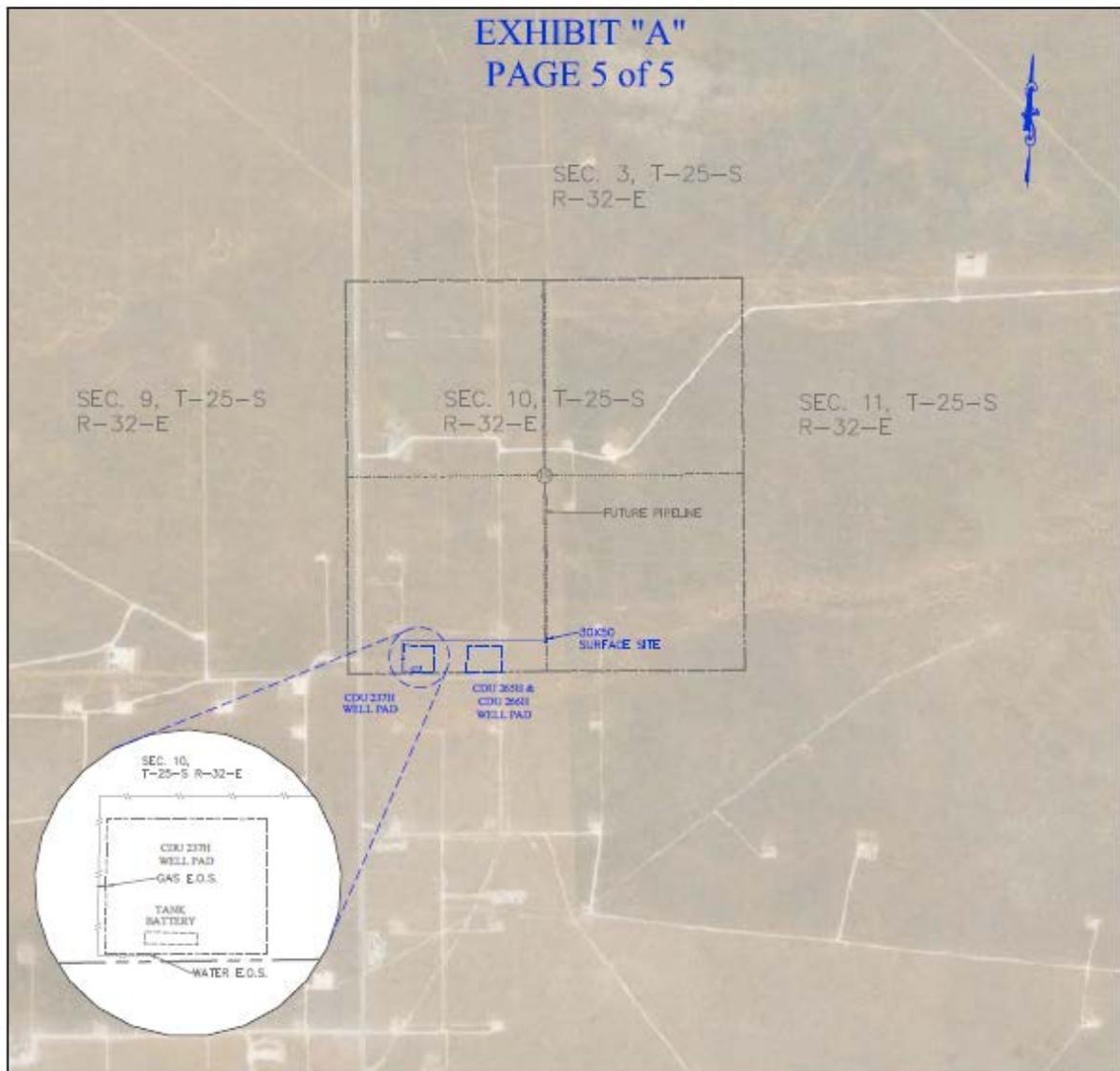
Devon plans to install a buried 6" Polyflow Termoflex pipeline and a buried 4" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from the CDU 237H well pad to the tie-in point at the surface site on the south end of the Lippizzan Lateral East Segment #2 pipeline. The pipeline would exit off the southwest corner of the CDU 237H well pad and travel west for about 138.45 feet. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 439.64 feet. The pipeline would turn east and travel for about 1,925.66 feet until it would intercept the tie-in point at the surface site on the south end of the Lippizzan Lateral East Segment #2 pipeline. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

The buried pipeline length is 2,503.75 ft. (0.47 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 2.59 acres, which includes a 30' x 50' pig launcher site. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Lea County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 10, S2SW

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CDU 237H BATTERY CONNECT

SECTION 10, T25S-R32E, N.M.P.M.,  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

<b>HORIZON ROW LLC</b>	
DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, LP.	
PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT	
Drawn by: RUBEN OLIVERA	Date: 12/17/2014

Drawn for:		LINE NUMBER: 7600084Z
		WGS NUMBER:
		SCALE: 1" = 2000'
		REVISIONS: 0
		SHEET: 5 OF 5

CDU 33 State Fed Com 1 Battery

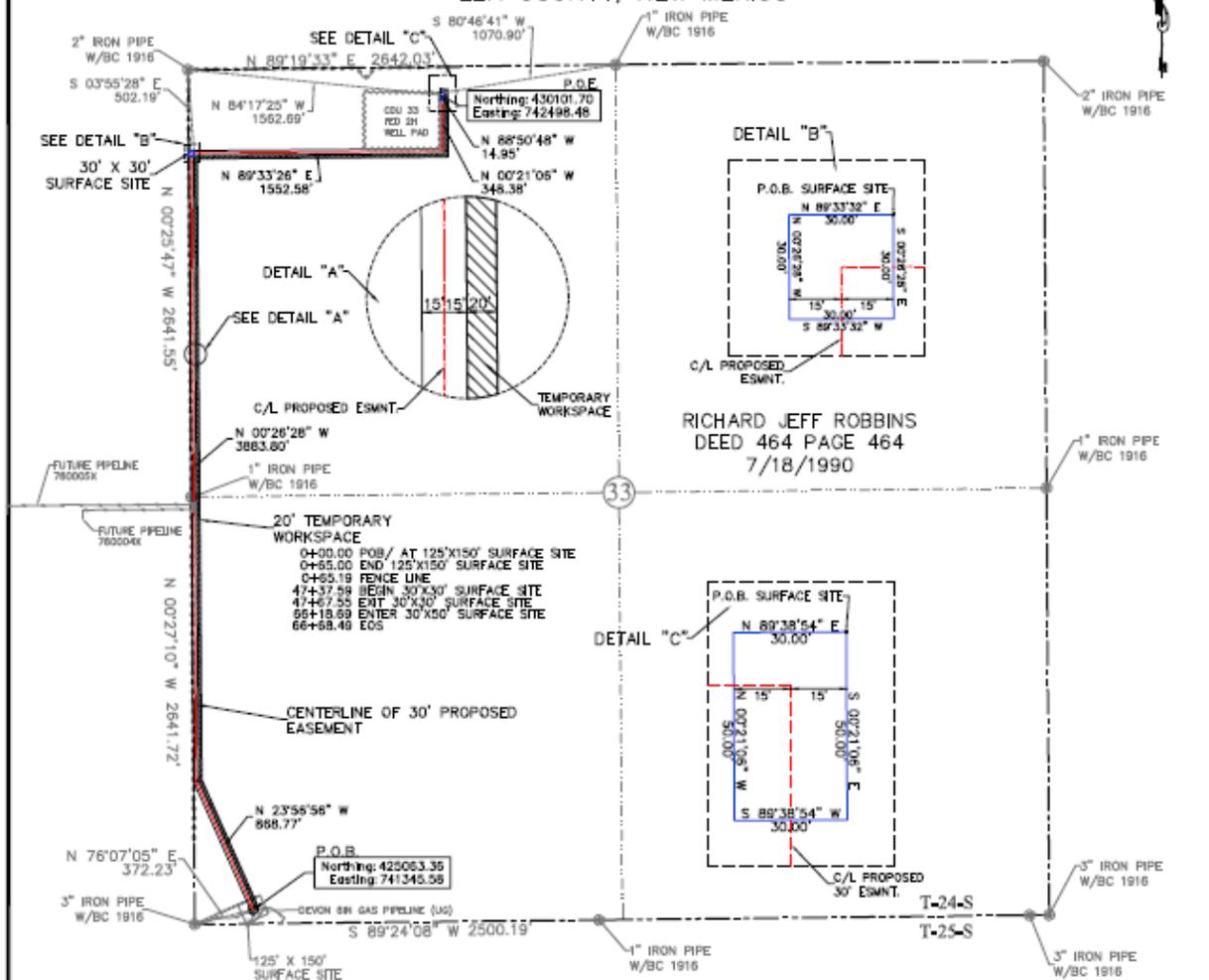
Devon plans to install a buried 10" steel gas pipeline and a buried 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from a tie-in point on the surface site at the east end of the Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1 to another tie-in point at the CDU 33 Federal 2H well pad. The pipeline would exit off the surface site at the Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1 and travel northwest for about 868.77 feet. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 3,883.8 feet. The pipeline would turn east and travel for about 1,552.58 feet. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 363.33 feet until it would intercept the tie-in point at the CDU 33 Federal 2H well pad. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

The buried pipeline length is 6,668.48 ft. (1.26 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 6.89 acres, which includes a 30' x 30' surface valve site and a 30' x 50' surface valve site. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Lea County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 33, W2W2, NENW

EXHIBIT "A"  
PAGE 1 of 3  
SECTION 33, T24S-R32E, N.M.P.M.  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



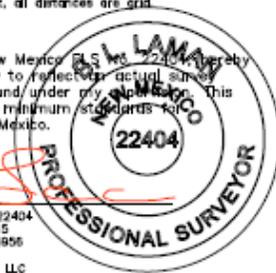
30' X 30' SURFACE SITE AREA = 0.021 ACRE(S)  
 30' X 50' SURFACE SITE AREA = 0.034 ACRE(S)  
 30' EASEMENT AREA = 4.593 ACRE(S)  
 20' TEMPORARY WORKSPACE AREA = 3.079 ACRE(S)  
 6668.48 FEET OR 404.15 RODS

SEE THE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Note: All bearings recited herein are based on the New Mexico State Plane Coordinate System, NAD 83, New Mexico East Zone 3001, US Survey Feet, all distances are grid.

I, B.L. Laman, New Mexico PLS No. 22404, hereby certify this survey to reflect the actual survey made on the ground/under my supervision. This survey meets the minimum standards for surveying in New Mexico.

B.L. Laman PLS #22404  
 DATE SIGNED 01-19-2015  
 Magnolia Springs, TX 75956  
 (905) 385-3045  
 Employee of Horizonrow, LLC



0 1000 2000



<b>HORIZON ROW LLC</b>		DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, L.P.	LINE NUMBER: 750003X2
Drawn for:		CDU 33 FED 1H BATTERY CONNECT	WBS NUMBER: CC-110540.01
Drawn by: RUBEN OLIVARES	Date: 12/11/2014	PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT ON THE PROPERTY OF RICHARD JEFF ROBBINS	SCALE: 1" = 1000'
SECTION 33, T24S-R32E, N.M.P.M.			REVISIONS BY: 1.15.14 JKM
			SHEET: 1 OF 3

CDU 32 State Fed 3H Com Battery Connect

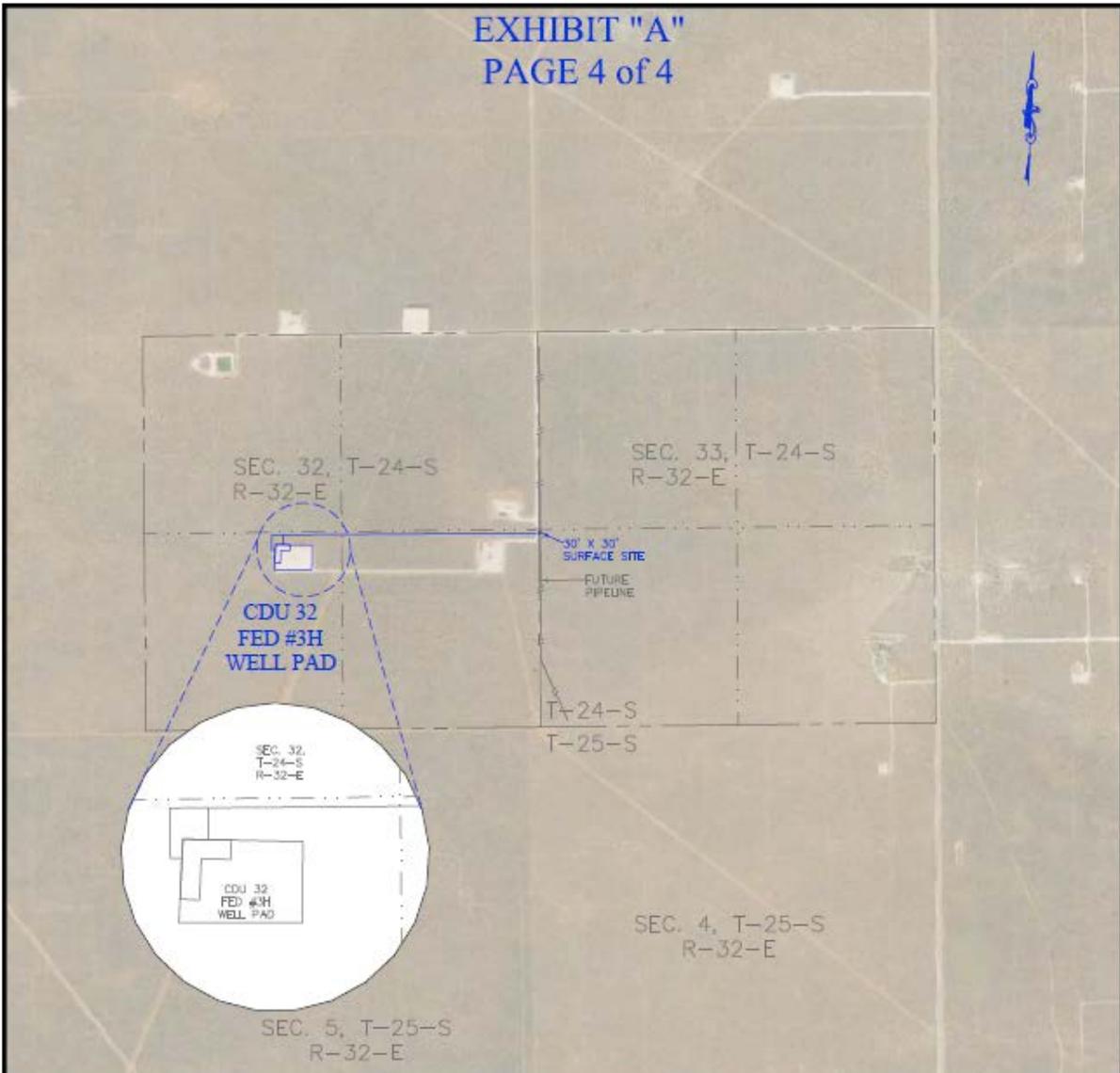
Devon plans to install a buried 6" Polyflow Thermoflex pipeline and a buried 4" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from the CDU 32 Fed #3H well pad to a tie-in point on the CDU 33 State Fed Com 1 Battery pipeline. The pipeline would exit off the northwest corner of the CDU 32 Fed #3H well pad and travel west for about 48.34 feet. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 204.39 feet. The pipeline would turn east and travel for about 156.67 feet. The pipeline would also exit the northwest corner of the well pad and travel north for about 129.85 feet where it would intercept the line described previously. The pipelines would then turn east and travel for about 3,438.67 feet until it would intercept the tie-in point on the CDU 33 State Fed Com 1 Battery pipeline at a surface site in the NWNW of Section 33-T24S-R32E. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

The buried pipeline length is 3,977.92 ft. (0.75 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 4.11 acres, which includes a 30' x 30' surface valve site. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Lea County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 32, N2SE, NESW  
Sec. 33, NWSW

EXHIBIT "A"  
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CDU 32 STATE FED 3H COM BATTERY CONNECT

SECTION 33, T24S-R32E, AND SECTION 32, T24S-R32E,  
N.M.P.M., LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

<b>HORIZON ROW LLC</b>	
DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, L.P.	
PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT	
Drawn by: RUBEN OLIVAERS	Date: 12/15/2014

Drawn for:	
LINE NUMBER: 780005X2	
WBS NUMBER:	
SCALE: 1" = 2000'	
REVISIONS:	
SHEET: 4 OF 4	

CDU 32 State Fed 1H Com Battery Connect

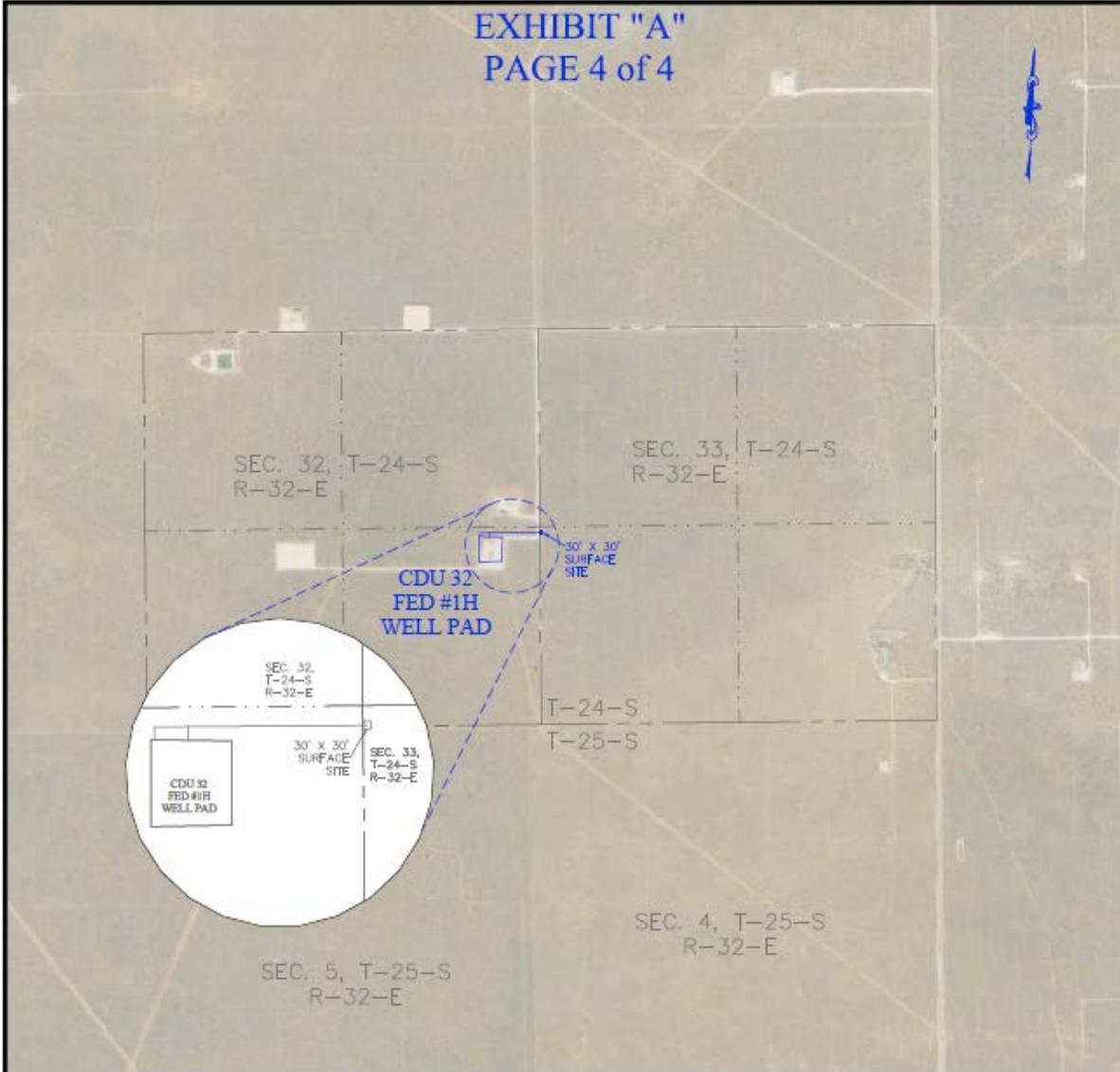
Devon plans to install a buried 6" Polyflow Thermoflex pipeline and a buried 4" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from the tank battery on the CDU 32 Fed #1H well pad to a tie-in point on the CDU 33 State Fed Com 1 Battery pipeline. The pipeline would exit off the northwest corner of the CDU 32 Fed #1H well pad and travel north for about 49.49 feet. The pipeline would turn east and travel for about 129.52 feet. The pipeline would also exit the northwest corner of the well pad and travel north for about 52.86 feet where it would intercept the line described previously. The pipelines would then turn east and travel for about 692.82 feet until they would intercept the tie-in point on the CDU 33 State Fed Com 1 Battery pipeline at a surface site in the NWNW of Section 33-T24S-R32E. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

The buried pipeline length is 924.69 ft. (0.18 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 0.96 acres, which includes a 30' x 30' surface valve site. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Lea County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 32, NESE  
Sec. 33, NWSW

EXHIBIT "A"  
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CDU 32 STATE FED 1H COM BATTERY CONNECT

SECTION 33, T24S-R32E, AND SECTION 32, T24S-R32E,  
N.M.P.M., LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

**HORIZON ROW LLC**

DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, L.P.

PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT

Drawn by:  
RUBEN OLIVERA

Date: 12/12/2014

Drawn for:



LINE NUMBER:  
280004X2

WBS NUMBER:

SCALE:  
1" = 2000'

REVISIONS:  
12-18-2014

SHEET:  
4 OF 4

Cotton Draw Trunkline North Segment #2

Devon plans to install a buried 20" steel gas pipeline and a buried 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from a tie-in point on the Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1 to a tie-in point at the CDU #208 well pad in the SENW of Section 25-T24S-R31E. The pipeline would exit the tie-in point on the Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1 and travel north for about 507.99 feet. The pipeline would turn northwest and travel for about 384.93 feet. The pipeline would then turn north and travel for about 5,704.09 feet. The pipelines would then turn northwest and travel for about 717.99 feet. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 927.92 feet until it would intercept the tie-in point on the CDU #208 well pad in the SENW of Section 25-T24S-R31E. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

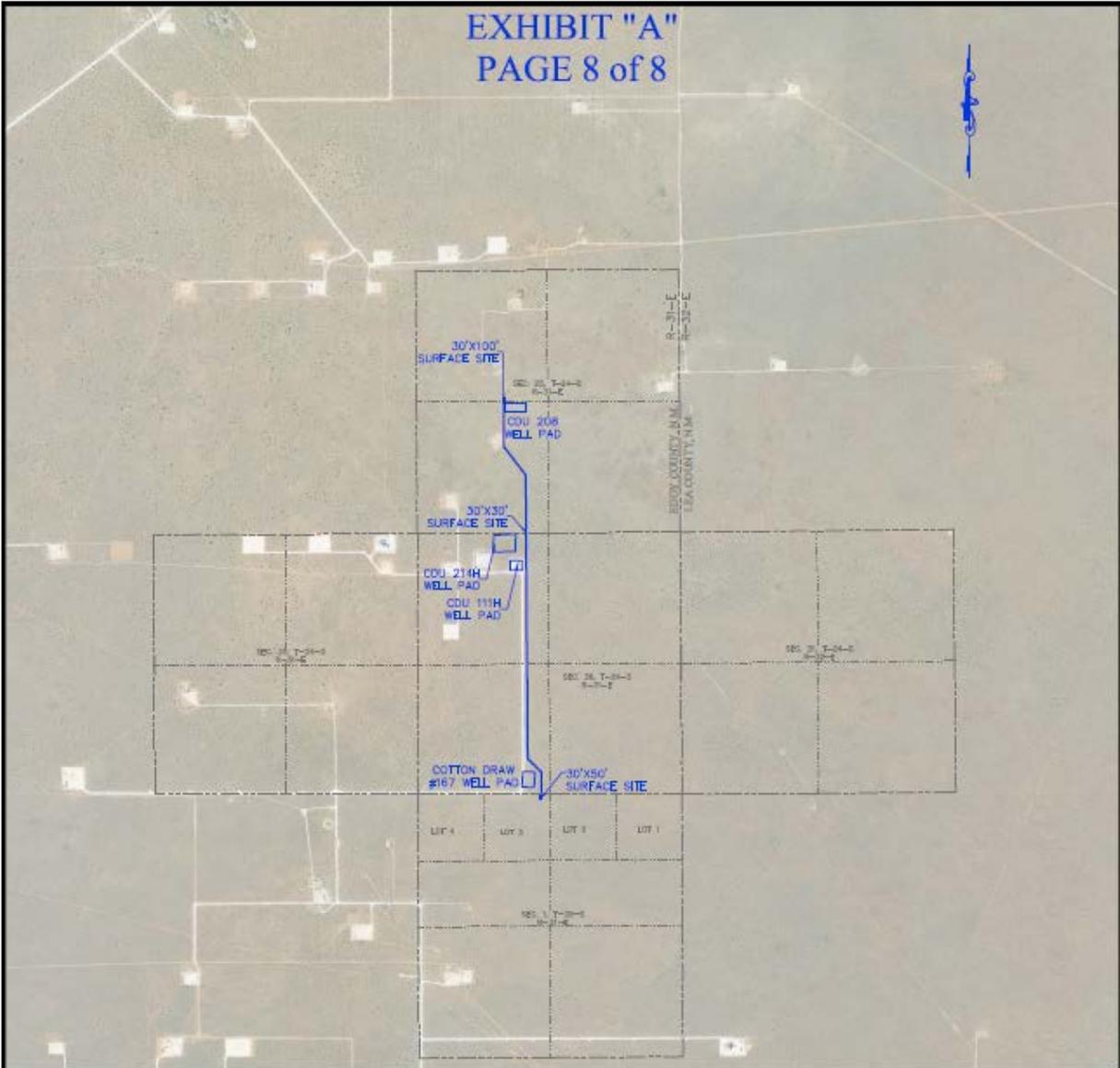
The buried pipeline length is 8,242.92 ft. (1.75 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 8.52 acres which includes a 30' x 30' surface valve site, a 30' x 50' surface valve site, and a 30' x 100' surface valve site. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Eddy County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 24 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec. 36, E2W2  
Sec. 25, E2SW, SENW

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec. 1, Lot 3

EXHIBIT "A"  
PAGE 8 of 8



COTTON DRAW TRUNKLINE NORTH SEGMENT #2

SECTION 1, T25S-R31E, N.M.P.M.; SECTION 36, 25, T24S-R31E, N.M.P.M.  
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

**HORIZON ROW LLC**  
DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION CO., LP.  
PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT  
Drawn by: KIMBLE MORGAN  
Date: 12/16/2014

Drawn for:



LINE NUMBER:  
760009X,2  
WBS NUMBER:  
SCALE:  
1" = 3000'  
REVISIONS:  
SHEET:  
8 OF 8

Cotton Draw Trunk Line Segment 1

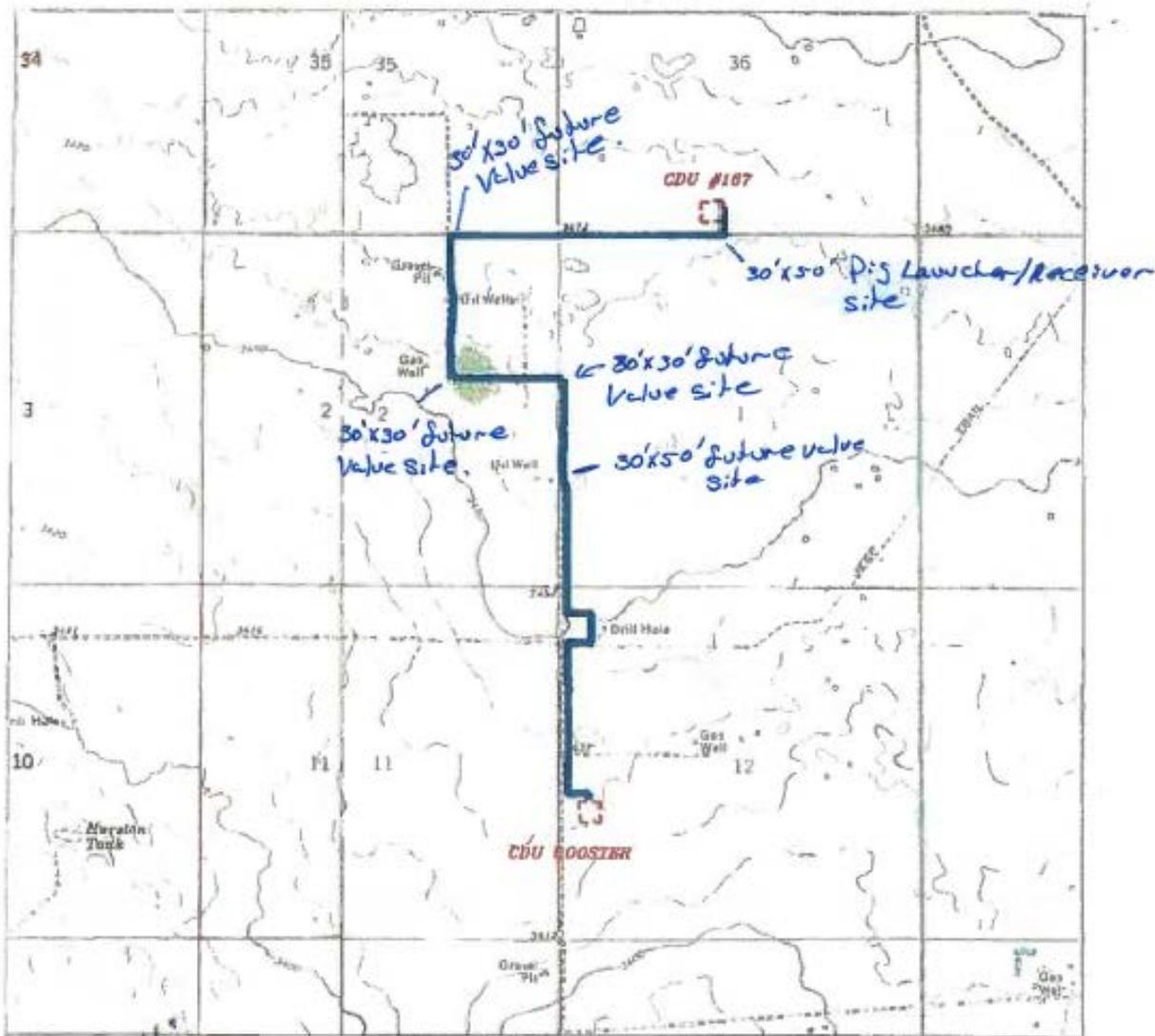
Devon plans to install a buried 16" steel gas pipeline from the CDU Booster in NWSW of Section 12-T25S-R31E to the tank battery location on the CDU #167 well pad. The pipeline would exit the northeast corner of the well pad and travel north for about 68.5 feet. The pipeline would turn northwest and travel for about 37 feet. The pipeline would then turn west and travel for about 264.2 feet. The pipeline would then turn northwest and travel for about 29 feet. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 2,220.6 feet. The pipeline would turn northeast and travel for about 25.8 feet. The pipeline would turn east and travel for about 295.8 feet. The pipeline would turn northeast and travel for about 59.8 feet. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 365.2 feet. The pipeline would turn northwest and travel for about 56 feet. The pipeline would turn west and travel for about 328.9 feet. The pipeline would turn northwest and travel for about 28.6 feet. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 1,825.5 feet. The pipeline would turn northwest and travel for about 185.1 feet. The east leg of the pipeline would continue east for about 583.06 feet along an existing road. The east leg of the pipeline would turn north and travel for about 60.03 feet until it would intercept the CDU #76 well pad in Section 1-T25S-R31E. The north leg of the pipeline would turn north and travel for about 1,466.9 feet along an existing road. The pipeline would turn northwest and travel for about 100 feet along an existing road. The pipeline would turn west and travel for about 1,531.9 feet along an existing road. The pipeline would turn northwest and travel for about 132.1 feet along an existing road. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 587.4 feet along an existing road. The pipeline would turn northeast and travel for about 536.9 feet along an existing road. The pipeline would turn northwest and travel for about 171.9 feet along an existing road. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 709.1 feet along an existing road. The pipeline would turn northeast and travel for about 60.1 feet along an existing road. The pipeline would turn east and travel for about 3,991.1 feet. The pipeline would turn northeast and travel for about 14.1 feet. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 343.8 feet. The pipeline would turn west and travel for about 30 feet until it would intercept the tank battery on the CDU #167 well pad. When the pipeline would follow existing roads, the pipeline would be routed 10 feet from and parallel to the existing roads. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

The buried pipeline length is 16,108.39 ft. (3.05 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 16.6 acres, which includes three 30' x 30' surface valve sites, a 30' x 50' surface valve site, and a 30' x 50' pig launcher site. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Eddy County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 24 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec. 36, SESW

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec. 1, N2NW, SWNW, W2SW  
Sec. 2, NE  
Sec. 12, W2NW, NWSW



**PROP. 8" POLY PIPELINE TO COTTON DRAW UNIT 167H BATTERY**  
 Section 36, Township 34 South, Range 31 East,  
 Sections 12 & 12, Township 25 South, Range 31 East,  
 N.M.P.M., Eddy County, New Mexico.



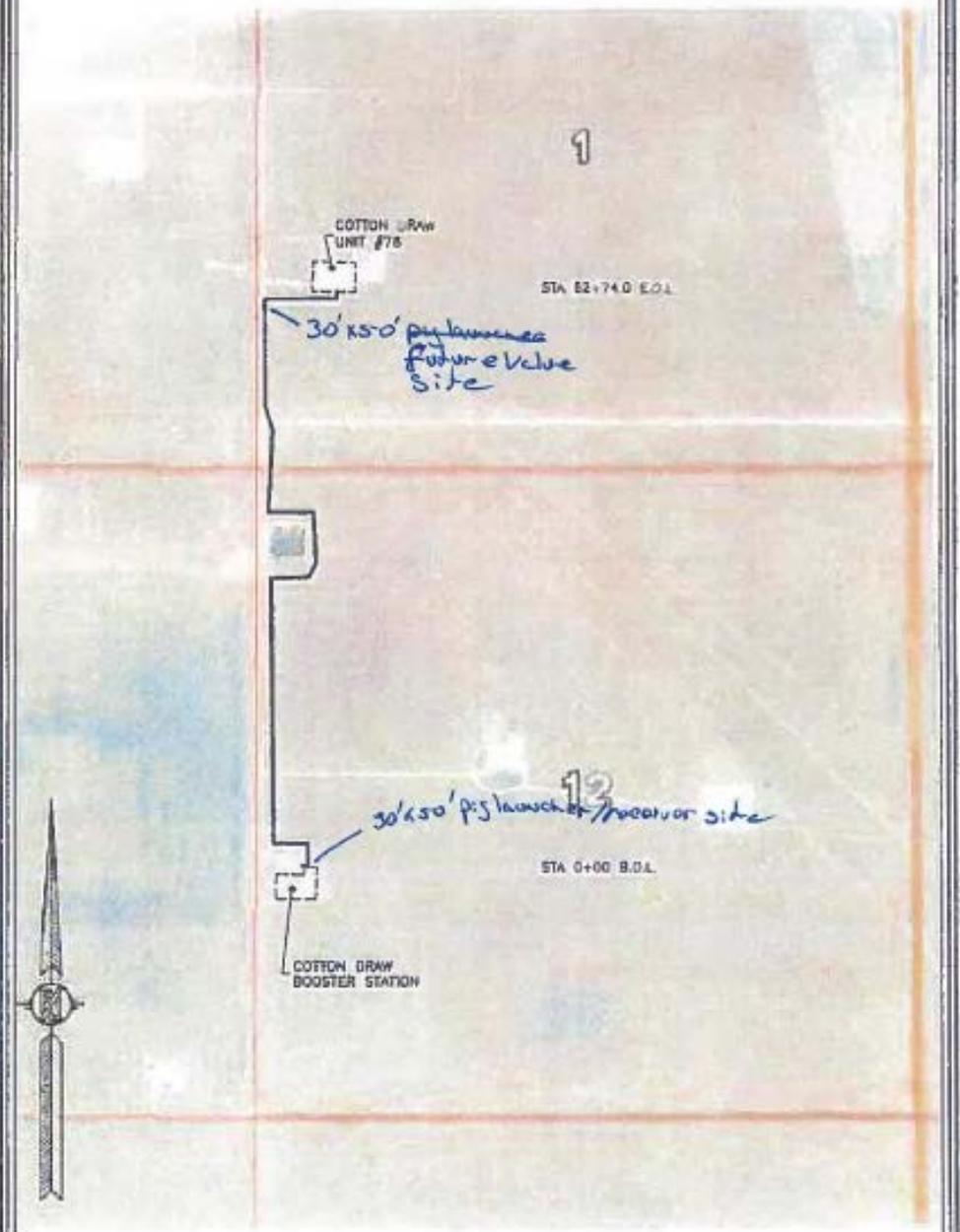
Basin surveys  
 1100 N. 1st St.  
 Suite 100  
 Amarillo, TX 79101  
 Phone: 806.335.1100  
 Fax: 806.335.1101  
 Email: info@basinsurveys.com

**DEVON ENERGY  
 PRODUCTION  
 COMPANY, L.P.**

16" buried steel

6" BURIED POLY SDR-9 GAS LINE FROM THE COTTON DRAW BOOSTER STATION TO THE COTTON DRAW UNIT #78

DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, L.P.  
CENTERLINE SURVEY OF A PIPELINE CROSSING  
SECTION 12, 1, TOWNSHIP 25 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
EDDY COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
JANUARY 27, 2014



SHEET 4-4

MADRON SURVEYING, INC. CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO

SURVEY NO. 2858

Big Sinks Draw Trunk

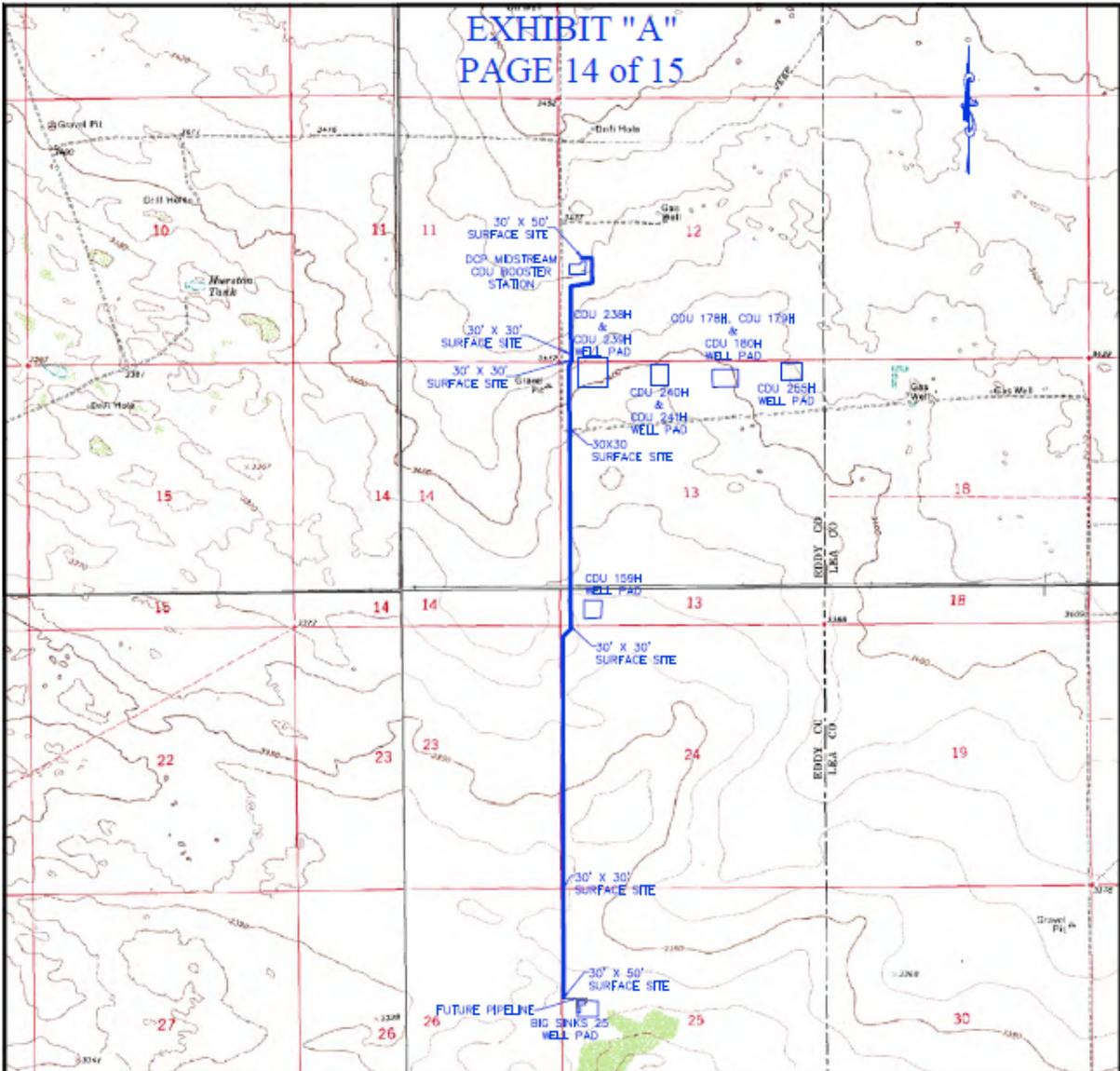
Devon plans to install a buried 20" steel gas pipeline and an 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from the tie-in point on the Big Sinks Draw 25 BS Battery Connect in SWNW of Section 25-T25S-R31E to the CDU Booster in NWSW of Section 12-T25S-R31E. The pipeline would exit the north side of the surface site tie-in and travel north for about 7,257.11 feet. The pipeline would turn northeast and travel for about 234.86 feet. The pipeline would then turn north and travel for about 5,286.75 feet. The pipeline would turn northeast and travel for about 115.13 feet. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 1,493.2 feet. The pipeline would then turn northeast and travel for about 433.98 feet. The pipeline would turn north and travel for about 495.93 feet. The pipeline would turn west and travel for about 194.74 feet until it would intercept the CDU Booster. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

The buried pipeline length is 15,511.70 ft. (2.94 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 16.02 acres, which includes four 30' x 30' surface valve sites and two 30' x 50' surface valve sites. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Eddy County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec. 12, W2SW  
Sec. 13, W2W2  
Sec. 24, W2W2  
Sec. 25, W2NW

EXHIBIT "A"  
PAGE 14 of 15



**BIG SINKS DRAW TRUNKLINE**

SECTION 12, 13, 24, 25 T25S-R31E, N.M.P.M.  
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

<b>HORIZON ROW LLC</b>	
DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION CO., L.P.	
PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT	
Drawn by: KIMBLE MORGAN	Date: 12/29/2014

Drawn for:



LINE NUMBER: 760016X.2
WBS NUMBER: CC-110772
SCALE: 1" = 3000'
REVISIONS: 1-19-15
SHEET: 14 OF 15

Big Sinks Draw 25 BS Battery Connect

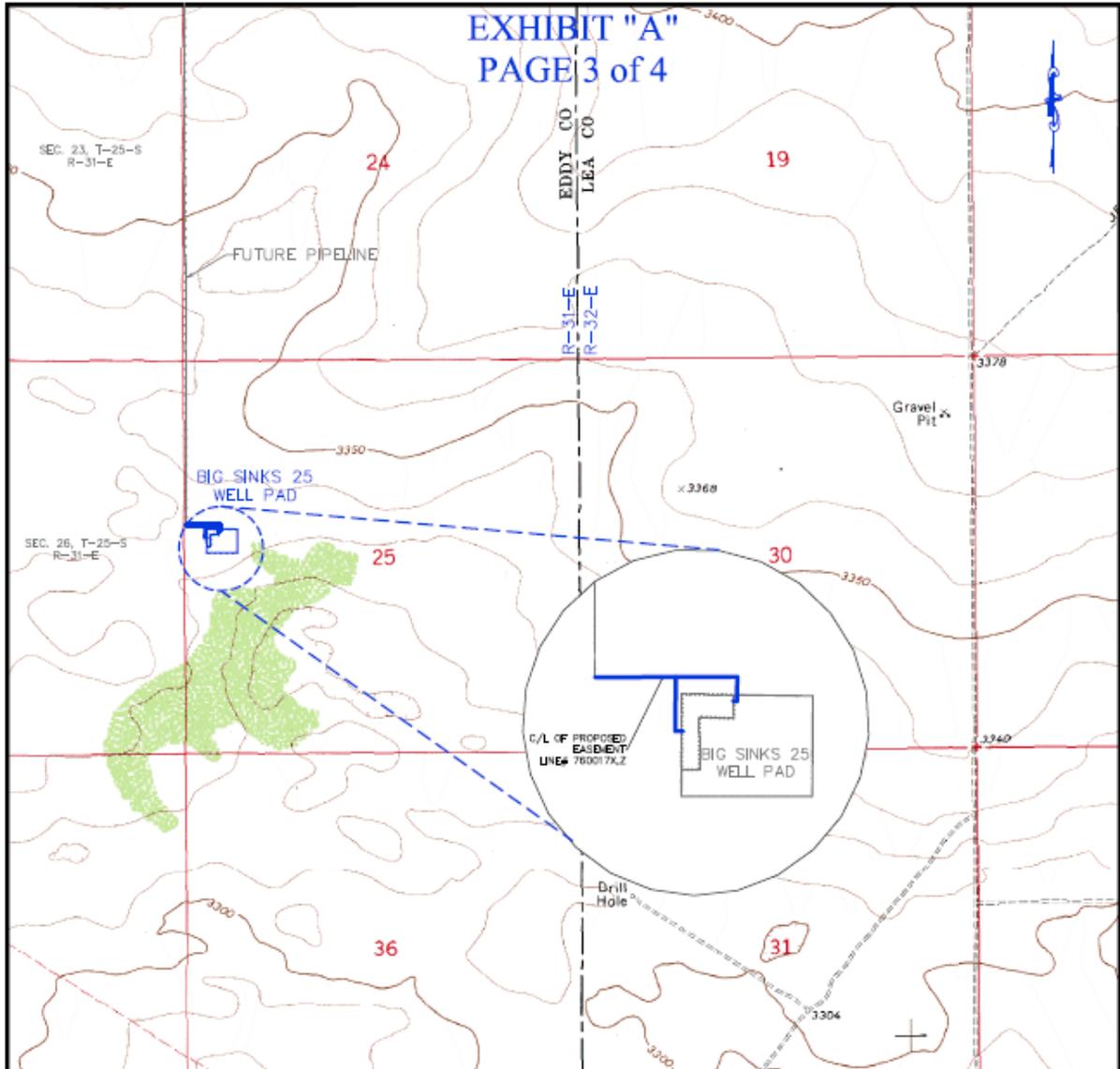
Devon plans to install a buried 6" Polyflow Thermoflex pipeline and a buried 4" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from the Big Sinks Draw 25 BS Battery Connect in SWNW-Section 25-T25S-R31E to the tie-in point on the Big Sinks Draw Trunk in SWNW of Section 25-T25S-R31E. The east leg of the pipeline would exit the north side of the Big Sinks Draw 25 BS Battery and travel east for about 12.19 feet. The pipeline would then turn north and travel for about 77.33 feet. The pipeline would turn west and travel for about 194.92 feet. The west leg of the pipeline would also exit the northwest corner of the Big Sinks Draw 25 BS Battery and travel west for about 25.02 feet. This leg of the pipeline would turn north and travel for about 172.01 feet, until it would connect with the east leg of the pipeline. The entire pipeline would then turn west and travel for about 256.84 feet until it would intercept the tie-in point on the Big Sinks Draw Trunk. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

The buried pipeline length is 738.31 ft. (0.14 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 0.76 acres. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Eddy County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec. 25, SWNW

EXHIBIT "A"  
PAGE 3 of 4



BIG SINKS DRAW 25 BS BATTERY CONNECT

SECTION 25, T25S-R31E, N.M.P.M.

<b>HORIZON ROW LLC</b>	
DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION CO., L.P.	
PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT	
Drawn by: HIMBLE MORGAN	Date: 12/29/2014

Drawn for:	 <b>devon</b>
LINE NUMBER: 760017X,2	
WBS NUMBER:	SCALE: 1" = 2000'
REVISIONS:	SHEET: 3 OF 4

Belgian Shire Lateral

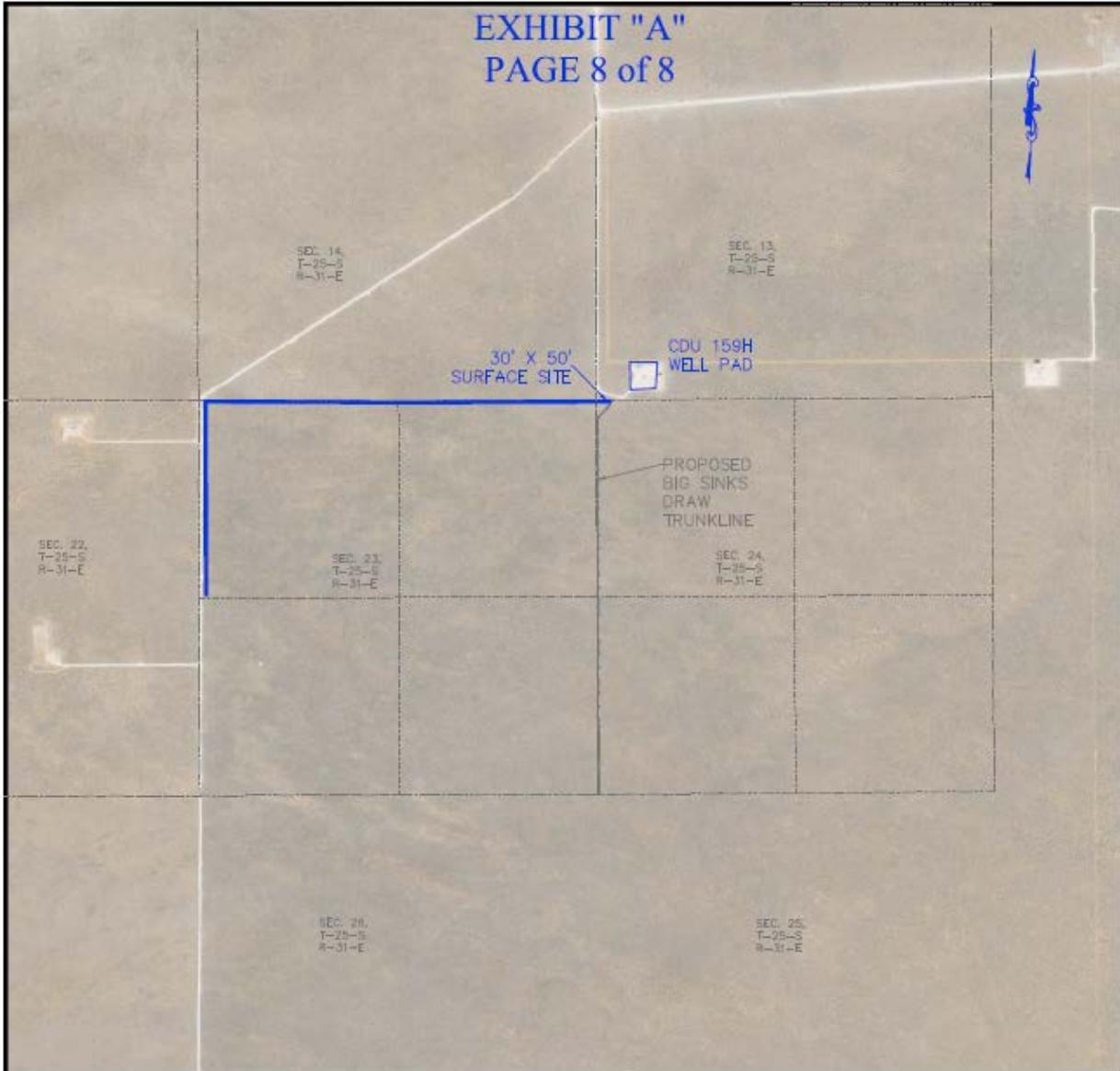
Devon plans to install a buried 10" steel gas pipeline and a buried 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from the tie-in point on the Big Sinks Draw Trunk in NWNW of Section 24-T25S-R31E to a tie-in point on an existing line in SWNW of Section 23-T25S-R31E. The pipeline would exit the tie-in point on the Big Sinks Draw Trunk in NWNW of Section 24-T25S-R31E and travel west for about 5,410.76 feet. The pipeline would then turn south and travel for about 2,590.44 feet until it would intercept the tie-in point on an existing line in SWNW of Section 23-T25S-R31E. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

The buried pipeline length is 8,001.2 ft. (1.52 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 8.27 acres, which includes a 30' x 50' surface valve site. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Eddy County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec 24, NWNW  
Sec. 23, N2N2, SWNW

EXHIBIT "A"  
PAGE 8 of 8



BELGIAN SHIRE LATERAL

SECTION 24, T25S-R31E, AND SECTION 23, T25S-R31E,  
N.M.P.M., EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

<b>HORIZON ROW LLC</b>	
DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, L.P.	
PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT	
Drawn by: RUBEN OLIVERA	Date: 12/22/2014

Drawn for:



LINE NUMBER: 780018XZ
WBS NUMBER:
SCALE: 1" = 2000'
REVISIONS:
SHEET: 8 OF 8

CDU 13-18 Lateral

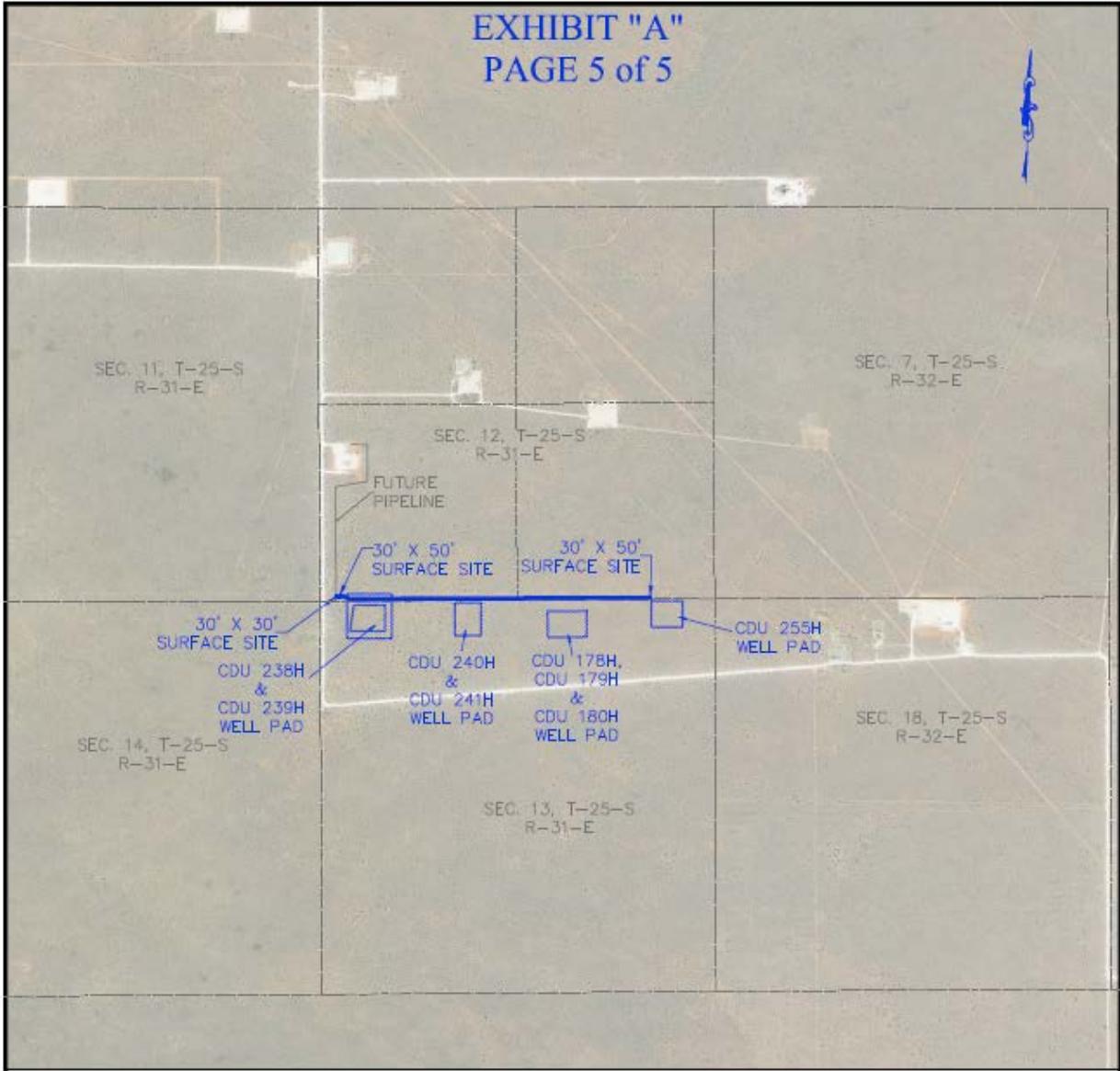
Devon plans to install a buried 10" steel gas pipeline and a buried 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from the tie-in point on the Big Sinks Draw Trunk in SWSW of Section 12-T25S-R31E to a tie-in point on the CDU 255H well pad. The pipeline would exit the tie-in point on the Big Sinks Draw Trunk in SWSW of Section 12-T25S-R31E and travel east for about 100 feet. The pipeline would then turn southeast and travel for about 87.02 feet. The pipeline would turn east and travel for about 4,033.9 feet until it would intercept the CDU 255H well pad location. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

The buried pipeline length is 4,220.92 ft. (0.80 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 4.36 acres, which includes a 30' x 30' surface valve site and two 30' x 50' surface valve sites. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Eddy County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec 12, S2S2

EXHIBIT "A"  
PAGE 5 of 5



CDU 13-18 LATERAL

SECTION 12, T25S-R31E, N.M.P.M.,  
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

<b>HORIZON ROW LLC</b>	
DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, L.P.	
PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT	
Drawn by: RUBEN OLIVAERS	Date: 12/19/2014

Drawn for:		LINE NUMBER: 760020X,Z
		WES NUMBER: CC-110892
		SCALE: 1" = 2000'
		REVISIONS: BY: 1/12/15 KM
		SHEET: 5 OF 5

CDU 172 Lateral

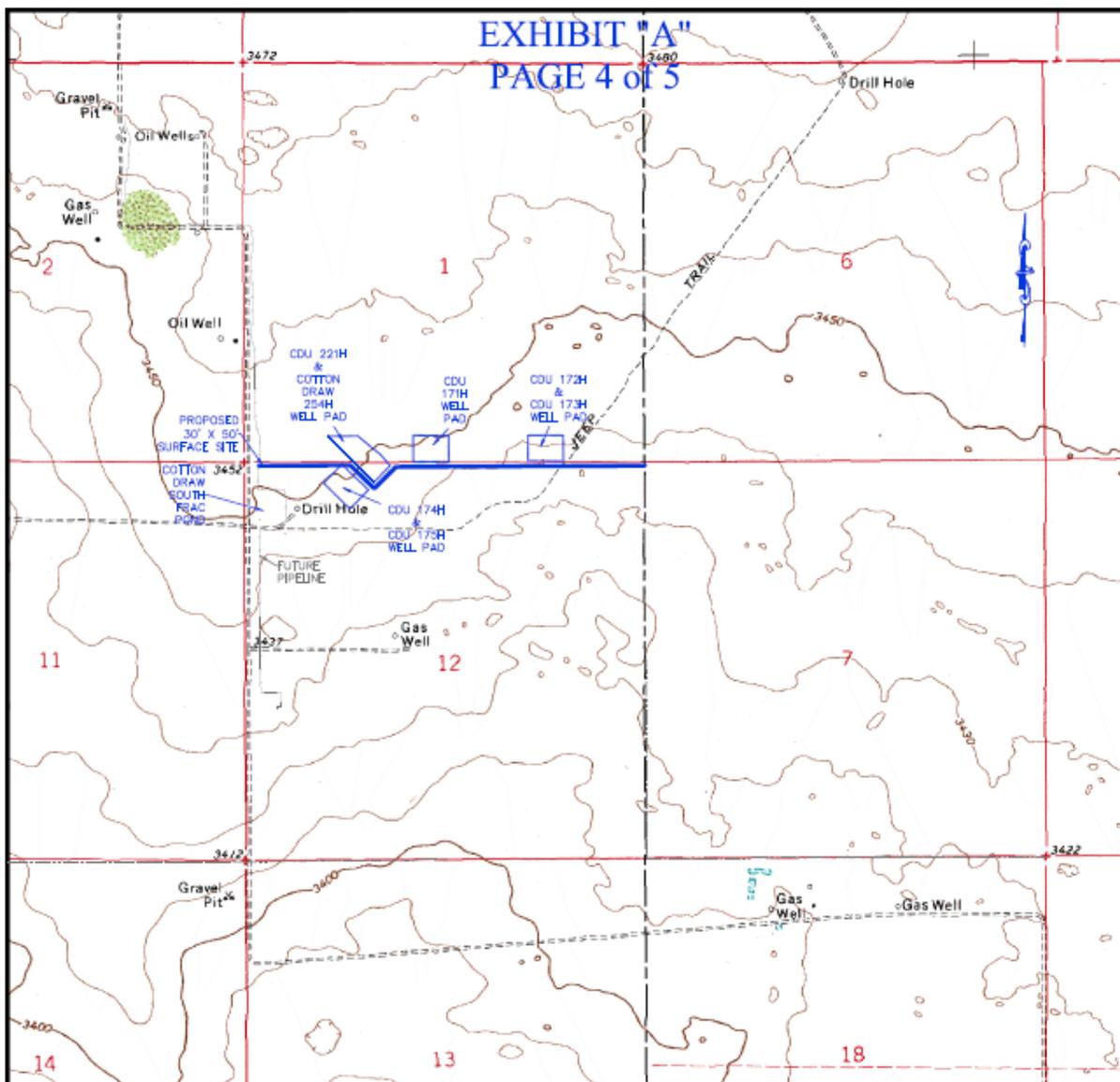
Devon plans to install a buried 12" steel gas pipeline and a buried 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipeline from the tie-in point on the Cotton Draw Trunk Line Segment 1 in NWNW of Section 12-T25S-R31E to a tie-in point on an existing line in NENE of Section 12-T25S-R31E. The pipeline would exit the tie-in point on the Cotton Draw Trunk Line Segment 1 in NWNW of Section 12-T25S-R31E and travel east for about 1,218.29 feet. The pipeline would then turn southeast and travel for about 443.4 feet. The pipeline would turn northeast and travel for about 406.06 feet. The pipeline would turn east and travel for about 3,316.54 feet until it would intercept the tie-in point on an existing line in NENE of Section 12-T25S-R31E. The trench would be excavated to a depth of no less than 36". The pipeline would be placed in the trench, covered, and soil would be re-compacted.

The buried pipeline length is 5,384.29 ft. (1.02 mi.), and 45 ft. wide, for 5.56 acres, which includes a 30' x 50' surface valve site. Devon would utilize an additional 5 foot wide temporary workspace during construction along the 45ft foot wide right-of-way that would not be cleared or bladed.

The legal lands description is located in Eddy County, New Mexico and is described as follows:

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec 12, N2N2

EXHIBIT "A"  
PAGE 4 of 5



CDU 172 LATERAL

SECTION 12, T25S-R31E, N.M.P.M.,  
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

<b>HORIZON ROW LLC</b>	
DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, L.P.	
PROPOSED 30' EASEMENT	
Drawn by: RUBEN OLIVERA	Date: 12/16/2014

Drawn for:



LINE NUMBER: 780012X2
WBS NUMBER: CC-110814.01
SCALE: 1" = 2000'
REVISIONS: 01-16-2015
SHEET: 4 OF 5

**Proposed Action Total Surface Disturbance:**

<b>Total</b>	<b>108.12 Acres</b>
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**Mitigation Measures:** The mitigation measures include:

1. Standard Stipulations for buried pipelines.
2. Special Stipulations for construction in Lesser Prairie-Chicken habitat.
3. Special Stipulations for construction in the Secretary's Potash area.

## **2.2. No Action**

Under this alternative, The BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) states that for Environmental Assessments (EAs) on externally initiated proposed actions, the No Action Alternative generally means that the proposed activity will not take place. This option is provided in 43 CFR 3162.3-1 (h) (2). This alternative would deny the approval of the proposed application, and the current land and resource uses would continue to occur in the proposed project area. No mitigation measures would be required.

## **2.3. Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study**

There are no alternate routes that will have significantly fewer impacts or any clear advantages over the proposed action. Overall impacts to the natural resources, if an alternate route were required, would be substantially identical to the proposed action with only minor differences in disturbances to soil, vegetation, and wildlife occurring.

Field investigation of all areas of proposed surface disturbance for the Proposed Action were inspected to ensure that potential impacts to natural and cultural resources would be minimized through the implementation of mitigation measures. These measures are described for all resources potentially impacted in Chapter 3 of this EA. Therefore, no additional alternative other than those listed above have been considered for this project.

### 3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

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Projects requiring approval from the BLM such as right of way grants can be denied when the BLM determines that adverse effects to resources (direct or indirect) cannot be mitigated to reach a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed project would not be implemented and there would be no new impacts to natural or cultural resources from the proposed project. The No Action Alternative would result in the continuation of the current land and resource uses in the project area and is used as the baseline for comparison of environmental effects of the analyzed alternatives.

During the analysis process, the interdisciplinary team considered several resources and supplemental authorities. The interdisciplinary team determined that the resources discussed below would be affected by the proposed action.

#### 3.1. Air Resources

---

##### *Affected Environment*

The two components of air resources are air quality and climate. This document summarizes the technical information related to air resources and climate change associated with oil and gas development and the methodology and assumptions used for analysis.

##### **Air Quality**

Air quality is determined by atmospheric pollutants and chemistry, dispersion meteorology and terrain, and also includes applications of noise, smoke management, and visibility. The area of the proposed action is within the Pecos River airshed and is classified as a Class II Air Quality Area. A Class II area allows moderate amounts of air quality degradation. The primary causes of air pollution in the project area are from motorized equipment and dust storms caused by strong winds during the spring. Particulates from nearby oil and gas production, agricultural burning, recreational and industrial vehicular traffic and ambient dust can also affect air quality. Air quality in the area near the proposed action is generally considered good, and the proposed action is not located in any of the areas designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as “non-attainment areas” for any listed pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act.

The EPA’s Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2012 found that in 2012, total U.S. GHG emissions were over 6 billion metric tons and that total U.S. GHG emissions have increased by 4% from 1990 to 2012. The report also noted that GHG emissions fell by 3% from 2011 to 2012. This decrease was, in part, attributed to the increased use of natural gas and other alternatives to burning coal in electric power generation (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2014).

##### **Climate**

The 2013 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) states that the atmospheric concentrations of well-mixed, long-lived greenhouse gases (GHGs), including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years. Further, human influence has been detected in warming of the atmosphere and the ocean, in changes in the global water cycle, in reductions in snow and ice, in global mean sea level rise, and in changes in some climate extremes. It is extremely likely (95 – 100% probability) that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2013).

Global mean surface temperatures have already increased 1.5 degrees F from 1880 to 2012. Additional near-term warming is inevitable due to the thermal inertia of the oceans and ongoing GHG emissions. Assuming there are no major volcanic eruptions or long-term changes in solar irradiance, global mean surface temperature increase for the period 2016 – 2035 relative to 1986-2005 will likely be in the range of 0.3 – 0.7°C (0.5 – 1.3°F). Global mean temperatures are expected to continue rising over the 21st century under all of the projected future RCP concentration scenarios. Global mean temperatures in 2081 – 2100 are projected to be between 0.3 – 4.8°C (0.5 – 8.6°F) higher relative to 1986 – 2005. The IPCC projections are consistent with reports from other organizations (e.g. NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, 2013; The National Academy of Sciences, 2005).

Climate change will impact regions differently and warming will not be equally distributed. Both observations and computer model predictions indicate that increases in temperature are likely to be greater at higher latitudes, where the temperature increase may be more than double the global average. Warming of surface air temperature over land will very likely be greater than over oceans (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2013). There is also high confidence that warming relative to the reference period will be larger in the tropics and subtropics than in mid-latitudes. Frequency of warm days and nights will increase and frequency of cold days and cold nights will decrease in most regions. Warming during the winter months is expected to be greater than during the summer, and increases in daily minimum temperatures are more likely than increases in daily maximum temperatures. Models also predict increases in duration, intensity, and extent of extreme weather events. The frequency of both high and low temperature events is expected to increase. Near- and long-term changes are also projected in precipitation, atmospheric circulation, air quality, ocean temperatures and salinity, and sea ice cover.

Several activities contribute to the phenomena of climate change, including emissions of GHGs (especially carbon dioxide and methane) from fossil fuel development, large wildland fires and activities using combustion engines; changes to the natural carbon cycle; and changes to radiative forces and reflectivity (albedo). It is important to note that GHGs will have a sustained climatic impact over different temporal scales. For example, recent emissions of carbon dioxide can influence climate for 100 years.

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## ***Impacts from the Proposed Action***

### **Air Quality**

The winds that frequent the southeastern part of New Mexico generally disperse odors and emissions, however, air quality would be impacted temporarily from exhaust emissions, chemical odors, dust caused by vehicles traveling to and from the project area and from motorized equipment used during construction. Impacts to air quality will diminish upon completion of the construction of the proposed action.

The EPA has the primary responsibility for regulating air quality, including seven nationally regulated ambient air pollutants. The state of New Mexico has an EPA-approved state implementation plan that regulates air quality throughout the state, except on tribal lands and within Bernalillo County. The New Mexico Air Quality Bureau's (NMAQB) mission is to protect the inhabitants and natural beauty of New Mexico by preventing the deterioration of air quality. The NMAQB is responsible for: ensuring air quality standards are met and maintained; issuing air quality Construction and Operating Permits; enforcing air quality regulations and permit conditions. Any emission source must comply with the NMAQB regulations. Impacts to air quality on lands managed by BLM in southeastern New Mexico are reduced by the following standard practices which include: utilizing existing disturbance; minimizing surface disturbance; reclaiming and quickly establishing vegetation on areas not necessary for production; periodic watering of access roads during dry periods; removal and reuse of caliche for building other projects.

## Climate Change

Climate change analyses are comprised of several factors, including GHGs, land use management practices, and the albedo effect. The tools necessary to quantify incremental climatic impacts of specific activities associated with those factors are presently unavailable. As a consequence, impact assessment of effects of specific anthropogenic activities cannot be performed. Additionally, specific levels of significance have not yet been established. Qualitative and/or quantitative evaluation of potential contributing factors within the project area is included where appropriate and practicable. When further information on the impacts to climate change in southeastern New Mexico is known, such information will be incorporated into the BLM's NEPA documents as appropriate.

Environmental and economic climate change impacts from commodity consumption are not effects of the proposed planning decisions and thus are not required to be analyzed under the NEPA. They are not direct effects, as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), because they do not occur at the same time and place as the action. Neither are they indirect effects because the proposed plan actions and resulting greenhouse gas emissions production are not a proximate cause of the emissions or other factors resulting from consumption. The BLM does not determine the destination of the resources produced from Federal lands. The effects from consumption are not only speculative, but beyond the scope of agency authority or control. Therefore, this document does not include analysis of the consumption of resources produced as a result of planning decisions.

## Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts

None

## 3.2. Range

### *Affected Environment*

The proposed action would be located within the Phantom Banks allotment, #77040; the Bobcat Draw allotment, #76039; the Fairview allotment, #76038; the Twin Wells allotment, #77042; and the Ruth Ross Place allotment, #76053. These allotments are yearlong cow-calf deferred rotation operations. Range improvement projects such as windmills, water delivery systems (pipelines, storage tanks, and water troughs), earthen reservoirs, fences, and brush control projects are located within the allotment, and the proposed route crosses allotment boundary fences, pasture fences, and buried livestock water lines. In general, an average rating of the range land within this area is 6 acres per Animal Unit Month (AUM). In order to support one cow, for one year, about 72 acres are needed. This equals about nine cows per section.

### *Impacts from the Proposed Action*

#### Direct and Indirect Impacts

The loss of 108.12 acres of vegetation would not affect the AUMs authorized for livestock use in this area, since the total acres disturbed is spread over five allotments. There are occasional livestock injuries or deaths due to accidents such as collisions with vehicles, falling into excavations, and ingesting plastic or other materials present at the work site. If further development occurs, the resulting loss of vegetation could reduce the AUMs authorized for livestock use in this area.

Impacts to the ranching operation are reduced by standard practices such as utilizing existing surface disturbance, minimizing vehicular use, placing parking and staging areas on caliche surfaced areas, and quickly establishing vegetation on the reclaimed areas.

#### Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts

##### Fence Requirement

Where entry is granted across a fence line, the fence must be braced and tied off on both sides of the passageway with H-braces prior to cutting. Once the work is completed, the fence will be restored to its

prior condition, or better. The operator shall notify the private surface landowner or the grazing allotment holder prior to crossing any fence(s) or pipelines.

### 3.3. Soils

#### ***Affected Environment***

The area of the proposed action is mapped as BB – Berino complex, 0-3% slopes (Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1, Cotton Draw Trunkline North Segment #2, Cotton Draw Trunk Line Segment 1, Big Sinks Draw Trunk, Big Sinks Draw 25 BS Battery Connect, Belgian Shire Lateral, CDU 13-18 Lateral, CDU 172 Lateral); MF – Maljamar and palomas fine sands, 0-3% slopes (Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1, Lippizzan 4 Fed 1H Battery Connect, Lippizzan Lateral East Segment #2, CDU 33 State Fed Com 1 Battery); PU – Pyote and maljamar fine sands, 0-3 % slopes (Lippizzan Lateral East Segment #2); PT – Pyote loamy fine sand, 0-3% slopes (Lippizzan Lateral East Segment #2, CDU 237H Battery Connect, CDU 33 State Fed Com 1 Battery, CDU 32 State Fed 3H Com Battery Connect, CDU 32 State Fed 1H Com Battery Connect); BE – Berino-Cacique loamy fine sands association, 0-3% slopes (Lippizzan Lateral East Segment #2); PA – Pajarito loamy fine sand, 0-3% slopes (Cotton Draw Trunkline North Segment #2, Cotton Draw Trunk Line Segment 1, Big Sinks Draw Trunk); and TF – Tonuco loamy fine sand, 0-3% slopes (Belgian Shire Lateral). These are sandy soils and are described below:

#### **Map unit: BB - Berino complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes, eroded**

##### **Component: Berino (60%)**

The Berino component makes up 60 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. This component is on uplands, fan piedmonts. The parent material consists of mixed alluvium and/or eolian sands. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 0 percent. This component is in the R042XC003NM Loamy Sand ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The soil has a very slightly saline horizon within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a slightly sodic horizon within 30 inches of the soil surface.

##### **Component: Pajarito (25%)**

The Pajarito component makes up 25 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. This component is on uplands, dunes. The parent material consists of mixed alluvium and/or eolian sands. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. This component is in the R042XC003NM Loamy Sand ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7e. Irrigated land capability classification is 2e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 30 percent.

#### **Map unit: MF - Maljamar and palomas fine sands, 0 to 3 percent slopes**

##### **Component: Maljamar (45%)**

The Maljamar component makes up 45 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. This component is on uplands, plains. The parent material consists of sandy eolian deposits derived from sedimentary rock. Depth to a root restrictive layer, petrocalcic, is 40 to 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is low. Shrink-swell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. This component is in the R042XC003NM Loamy Sand ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7e. Irrigated land capability classification is 7e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 3 percent.

**Component: Palomas (45%)**

The Palomas component makes up 45 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. This component is on uplands, plains. The parent material consists of alluvium derived from sandstone. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 0 percent. This component is in the R042XC003NM Loamy Sand ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

**Map Unit: PU – Pyote and maljamar fine sands****Component: Maljamar (45%)**

The Maljamar component makes up 45 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. This component is on uplands, plains. The parent material consists of sandy eolian deposits derived from sedimentary rock. Depth to a root restrictive layer, petrocalcic, is 40 to 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is low. Shrink-swell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. This component is in the R042XC003NM Loamy Sand ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7e. Irrigated land capability classification is 6e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 3 percent.

**Component: Pyote (45%)**

The Pyote component makes up 45 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. This component is on uplands, plains. The parent material consists of sandy eolian deposits derived from sedimentary rock. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 0 percent. This component is in the R042XC003NM Loamy Sand ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7s. Irrigated land capability classification is 6e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 3 percent.

**Map Unit: PT - Pyote loamy fine sand****Component: Pyote (85%)**

The Pyote component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. This component is on uplands, plains. The parent material consists of sandy eolian deposits derived from sedimentary rock. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 0 percent. This component is in the R042XC003NM Loamy Sand ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7s. Irrigated land capability classification is 6e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 3 percent.

**Map Unit: BE - Berino-Cacique loamy fine sands association****Component: Berino (50%)**

The Berino component makes up 50 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. This component is on uplands, plains. The parent material consists of sandy eolian deposits derived from sedimentary rock over calcareous sandy alluvium derived from sedimentary rock. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is

moderate. Shrink-swell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 0 percent. This component is in the R042XC003NM Loamy Sand ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7c. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 20 percent.

**Component: Cacique (40%)**

The Cacique component makes up 40 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. This component is on plains, uplands. The parent material consists of calcareous eolian deposits derived from sedimentary rock. Depth to a root restrictive layer, petrocalcic, is 20 to 40 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is low. Shrinkswell potential is moderate. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. This component is in the R042XC004NM Sandy ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7c. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 1 percent.

**Map unit: PA - Pajarito loamy fine sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes, eroded**

**Component: Pajarito (100%)**

The Pajarito component makes up 100 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. This component is on uplands, dunes. The parent material consists of mixed alluvium and/or eolian sands. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. This component is in the R042XC003NM Loamy Sand ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7e. Irrigated land capability classification is 2e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 10 percent.

**Map unit: TF - Tonuco loamy fine sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes**

**Component: Tonuco (100%)**

The Tonuco component makes up 100 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. This component is on alluvial fans, uplands. The parent material consists of mixed alluvium and/or eolian sands. Depth to a root restrictive layer, petrocalcic, is 6 to 20 inches. The natural drainage class is excessively drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is very high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is very low. Shrinkswell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 0 percent. This component is in the R042XC004NM Sandy ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Sandy

Typically, these soils are deep, well-drained to excessively drained, non-calcareous to weakly calcareous sands. They are found on undulating plains and low hills in the "sand country" east of the Pecos River. Permeability is moderate to very rapid, water-holding capacity is low to moderate, and little runoff occurs. These soils are susceptible to wind erosion and careful management is needed to maintain a cover of desirable forage plants and to control erosion. Reestablishing native plant cover could take 3-5 years due to unpredictable rainfall and high temperatures.

Low stability soils, such as the sandy and deep sands found on this area, typically contain only large filamentous cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria, while present in some locations, are not significant. While they occur in the top 4 mm of the soil, this type of soil crust is important in binding loose soil particles together to stabilize the soil surface and reduce erosion. The cyanobacteria also function in the nutrient cycle by fixing atmospheric nitrogen, contributing to soil organic matter, and maintaining soil moisture. Cyanobacteria are mobile, and can often move up through disturbed sediments to reach light levels

necessary for photosynthesis. Horizontally, they occur in nutrient-poor areas between plant clumps. Because they lack a waxy epidermis, they tend to leak nutrients into the surrounding soil. Vascular plants such as grasses and forbs can then utilize these nutrients.

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### ***Impacts from the Proposed Action***

#### **Direct and Indirect Impacts**

There is a potential for wind and water erosion due to the erosive nature of these soils once the cover is lost. There is always the potential for soil contamination due to spills or leaks. Soil contamination from spills or leaks can result in decreased soil fertility, less vegetative cover, and increased soil erosion.

Impacts to soil resources are reduced by standard practices such as utilizing existing surface disturbance, minimizing vehicular use, placing parking and staging areas on caliche surfaced areas, and quickly establishing vegetation on the reclaimed areas.

#### **Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts**

None

### **3.4. Vegetation**

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#### ***Affected Environment***

##### Sandy Soil Type Plant Communities

Vegetation within this project area is dominated by warm season, short and midgrasses such as black grama, bush muhly, various dropseeds, and three-awns. Bluestems, bristlegrass, lovegrasses, and hooded windmillgrass make up some of the less common grasses. Shrubs include mesquite, shinnery oak, sand sagebrush, broom snakeweed, and yucca. A large variety of forbs occur and production fluctuates greatly from year to year, and season to season. Common forbs include bladderpod, dove weed, globemallow, annual buckwheat, and sunflower.

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### ***Impacts from the Proposed Action***

#### **Direct and Indirect Impacts**

Construction of the right of ways would remove about 108.12 acres of vegetation. By using the proper seed mix (Seed Mixture #2/Sandy Sites), good seed bed preparation, and proper seeding techniques, this impact would be short term (two or three growing seasons).

Impacts to vegetation will be reduced by following standard practices such as utilizing existing surface disturbance and quickly establishing vegetation on the reclaimed areas.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

None

### **3.5. Visual Resource Management**

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#### ***Affected Environment***

The Visual Resource Management (VRM) program identifies visual values, establishes objectives in the RMP for managing those values, and provides a means to evaluate proposed projects to ensure that visual management objectives are met.

This project occurs within a Visual Resource Management Class IV zone. The objective of VRM Class IV is to provide management for activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities

may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic landscape elements of color, form, line and texture.

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## ***Impacts from the Proposed Action***

### **Direct and Indirect Impacts**

This project will cause some short term and long-term visual impacts to the natural landscape. Short term impacts occur during construction operations. These include the presence of construction equipment vehicle traffic.

Long term impacts are visible to the casual observer through the life of the pipelines. These include the visual evidence of piping which cause visible contrast to form, line, color, and texture. Those contrasts will be visible to visitors in the area.

After final abandonment, the pipelines and associated infrastructure will be removed, reclaimed, recontoured and revegetated, if necessary, thereby eliminating visual impacts.

Short and long term impacts are minimized by best management practices such as utilizing existing surface disturbance, no blading in the right-of-way, color selection and screening facilities with natural features and vegetation.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Above-ground structures including meter housing that are not subject to safety requirements are painted a flat non-reflective paint color, Shale Green from the BLM Standard Environmental Color Chart (CC-001: June 2008).

## **3.6. Wildlife**

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### ***Affected Environment***

This project occurs in the sand shinnery habitat type. Sand shinnery communities extend across the southern Great Plains occupying sandy soils in portions of north and west Texas, west Oklahoma, and southeast New Mexico. Portions of Eddy, Lea and Chaves counties consist largely of sand shinnery habitat and are intermixed with areas of mesquite to a lesser degree. The characteristic feature of these communities is co-dominance by shinnery oak and various species of grasses. In New Mexico Shinnery oak occurs in sandy soil areas, often including sand dunes.

Numerous wildlife water sources have been installed within the boundaries of the CFO. These wildlife waters are important to all wildlife in the desert ecosystem. These water sources provide free water and areas of sanctuary for wildlife species in the area. This project (Belgian Shire Lateral) is located within .5 miles from an artificial source of water for wildlife.

Various bird, mammal, reptile and invertebrate species inhabit the sand shinnery ecosystem in New Mexico. Herbivorous mammals include mule deer, pronghorn, and numerous rodent species. Carnivores include coyote, bobcat, badger, striped skunk, and swift fox. Two upland game bird species, scaled quail and mourning dove, are prevalent throughout the sand shinnery in New Mexico. Many species of songbirds nest commonly, with a much larger number that use the habitat during migration or for non-nesting activities. Common avian predators include northern harrier, Swainson's hawk, red-tailed hawk, kestrel, burrowing owl, and Chihuahuan raven. Numerous snake and lizard species have been recorded, including the sand dune lizard, the only vertebrate species restricted entirely to sand shinnery habitat.

**Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*)**  
**Federally Listed Species-Threatened**

In New Mexico, the lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) formerly occupied a range that encompassed the easternmost one-third of the state, extending to the Pecos River, and 48 km west of the Pecos near Fort Sumner. This covered about 38,000 km<sup>2</sup>. By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, populations still existed in nine eastern counties (Union, Harding, Chaves, De Baca, Quay, Curry, Roosevelt, Lea, and Eddy). The last reliable records from Union County are from 1993. Currently, populations exist only in parts of Lea, Eddy, Curry, Chaves, and Roosevelt counties, comprising about 23% of the historical range.

LPC are found throughout dry grasslands that contained shinnery oak or sand sage. Currently, they most commonly are found in sandy-soiled, mixed-grass vegetation, sometimes with short-grass habitats with clayey or loamy soils interspersed. They occasionally are found in farmland and smaller fields, especially in winter. Shinnery oak shoots are used as cover and produce acorns, which are important food for LPC and many other species of birds, such as the scaled quail, northern bobwhite, and mourning dove. Current geographic range of shinnery oak is nearly congruent with that of the lesser prairie-chicken, and these species sometimes are considered ecological partners. Population densities of LPC are greater in shinnery oak habitat than in sand sage habitat.

LPC use a breeding system in which males form display groups. These groups perform mating displays on arenas called leks. During mating displays male vocalizations called booming, attract females to the lek. Leks are often on knolls, ridges, or other raised areas, but in New Mexico leks are just as likely to be on flat areas such as roads, abandoned oil drill pads, dry playa lakes or at the center of wide, shallow depressions. Leks may be completely bare, covered with short grass, or have scattered clumps of grass or short tufts of plants. An important physical requirement for location of leks is visibility of surroundings, but the most important consideration is proximity of suitable nesting habitat, breeding females and the ability to hear male vocalizations.

In the late 1980s, there were 35 documented active booming grounds known to exist within the CFO. Due to population decreases and unpredictable weather cycles the LPC is currently proposed for federal listing, and potentially may become extirpated from Eddy and southern Lea counties. The last documented sighting within the Carlsbad field office boundaries was on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2011.

In June 1998, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a statement regarding their status review of the lesser prairie-chicken. It stated, "Protection of the lesser prairie-chicken under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) is warranted but precluded which means that other species in greater need of protection must take priority in the listing process." Given the current Federal Candidate status of this species, the Bureau of Land Management is mandated to carry out management consistent with the principles of multiple use, for the conservation of candidate species and their habitats, and shall ensure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out do not contribute to the need to list any of these species as Threatened or Endangered (Bureau Manual 6840.06). On December 11, 2012 the USFWS proposed to list the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened species under the ESA of 1973, as amended. On March 27, 2014 the USFWS in response to the rapid and severe decline of the lesser prairie-chicken announced the final listing of the species as threatened under the ESA, as well as a final special rule under section 4(d) of the ESA that will limit regulatory impacts on landowners and business from the listing. Currently, the USFWS has not determined or designated critical habitat regarding the lesser prairie-chicken. The final rule to list the lesser prairie-chicken as threatened was published in the *Federal Register* on April 10, 2014, and will be effective on May 12, 2014.

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***Impacts from the Proposed Action***

**Direct and Indirect Impacts**

Impacts of the proposed action to wildlife in the localized area may include but are not limited to: possible mortality, habitat degradation and fragmentation, avoidance of habitat during construction and drilling activities and the potential loss of burrows and nests.

Standard practices and elements of the proposed action minimize these impacts to wildlife. These include: the NTL-RDO 93-1(modification of open-vent exhaust stacks to prevent perching and entry from birds and bats), nets on open top production tanks, interim reclamation, closed loop systems, exhaust mufflers, berming collection facilities, minimizing cut and fill, road placement, and avoidance of wildlife waters, stick nests, drainages, playas and dunal features. These practices reduce mortality to wildlife and allow habitat to be available in the immediate surrounding area thus reducing stressors on wildlife populations at a localized level. Impacts to local wildlife populations are therefore expected to be minimal.

## **Special Status Species**

### **Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*)** **Federally Listed Species-Threatened**

Impacts of the proposed action to LPC in the localized area may include but are not limited to: disruptions in breeding cycles, habitat degradation and fragmentation, avoidance of habitat during construction and drilling activities and potential loss of nests. Noise and human activity generated from construction activity could impact the LPC by reducing the establishment of seasonal "booming grounds" or leks, thus possibly reducing reproductive success in the species. It is believed that the noise generated by construction activity and human presence could mask or disrupt the booming of the male prairie-chicken and thus inhibiting the females from hearing the booming. In turn, female LPC would not arrive at the booming ground, and subsequently, there would be decreased courtship interaction and possibly decreased reproduction. Decreased reproduction and the loss of recruitment into the local population would result in an absence of younger male LPC to replace mature male LPC once they expire, eventually causing the lek to disband and become inactive. Additionally, habitat fragmentation caused by development could possibly decrease the habitat available for nesting, brooding and feeding activities.

The CFO takes every precaution to ensure that active booming grounds and nesting habitats are protected by applying a timing and noise condition of approval within portions of suitable and occupied habitat for the LPC. It is not known at this time whether active booming grounds or nest locations are associated with this specific location. Only after survey efforts during the booming season are conducted, will it be known whether an active lek is in close proximity (within 1.5 miles) of the proposed location or not.

Exceptions to timing and noise requirements will be considered in emergency situations such as mechanical failures, however, these exceptions will not be granted if BLM determines, on the basis of biological data or other relevant facts or circumstances, that the grant of an exception would disrupt LPC booming activity during the breeding season. Requests for exceptions on a non-emergency basis may also be considered, but these exceptions will not be granted if BLM determines that there are prairie-chicken sightings, historic leks and or active leks within 1.5 miles of the proposed location, or any combination of the above mentioned criteria combined with suitable habitat.

In light of the circumstances under which exceptions may be granted, minimal impacts to the LPC are anticipated as a result of the grant of exceptions to the timing limitation for LPC Condition of Approval. On account of these requirements and mitigation measures as below, minimal impacts to the LPC are anticipated as a result of oil and gas activity.

Raptors have been observed using plugged and abandoned well markers as perches. Artificial perches may increase raptor presences in a given area. Furthermore, artificial perches may provide strategically-located vantage points and may improve the hunting efficiency of raptors. In order to improve the probability of maintaining a stable lesser prairie-chicken population, low profile plugged and abandoned well markers will be installed. The well marker will be approximately two (2) inches above ground level and contain the following information: operator name, lease name, and well number and location, including unit letter, section, township, and range. The previous listed information will be welded, stamped, or otherwise permanently engraved into the metal of the marker.

### **Candidate Conservation Agreement**

The proposed action is in support of lease field development in which the proponent (Devon) or lease holder is a Participating Cooperator in the Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) for the lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) and dunes sagebrush lizard (*Sceloporus arenicolus*).

The goal of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (CEHMM) and the Participating Cooperator is to reduce and/or eliminate threats to the LPC and/ or SDL. By agreeing to conduct the conservation measures described by the CCA, the Participating Cooperator contributes funding or provides in-kind services for conservation.

The Certificate of Participation (CP) associate with the CCA is voluntary between CEHMM, BLM, USFWS and the Participating Cooperator. Through the CP, the Participating Cooperator voluntarily commits to implement or fund specific conservation actions that will reduce and/or eliminate threats to the SDL and /or the LPC. Funds contributed as part of the CP will be used to implement conservation measures and associated activities. The funds will be directed to the highest priority projects to restore or reclaim habitat at the sole discretion of BLM and USFWS.

The following Conservation Measures are to be accomplished in addition to those described in the CCA and Pecos District Special Status Species Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA):

1. To the extent determined by the BLM representative at the Plan of Development stage, all infrastructures supporting the development of a well (including roads, power lines, and pipelines) will be constructed within the same corridor.
2. On enrolled parcels that contain inactive wells, roads and/or facilities that are not reclaimed to current standards, the Participating Cooperator shall remediate and reclaim their facilities within three years of executing this CP, unless the Cooperator can demonstrate they will put the facilities back to beneficial use for the enrolled parcel(s). If an extension is requested by the Cooperator, they shall submit a detailed plan (including dates) and receive BLM approval prior to the three year deadline. All remediation and reclamation shall be performed in accordance with BLM requirements and be approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.
3. Utilize alternative techniques to minimize new surface disturbance when required and as determined by the BLM representative at the Plan of Development stage.
4. Install fence markings along fences owned, controlled, or constructed by the Participating Cooperator that cross through occupied habitat within two miles of an active LPC lek.
5. Bury new powerlines that are within two (2) miles of LPC lek sites active at least once within the past five years (measured from the lek). The avoidance distance is subject to change based on new information received from peer reviewed science.
6. Bury new powerlines that are within one (1) mile of historic LPC lek sites where at least one LPC has been observed within the past three years (measured from the historic lek). The avoidance distance is subject to change based on new information received from peer reviewed science.
7. Management recommendations may be developed based on new information received from peer reviewed science to mitigate impacts from H<sub>2</sub>S and/or the accumulation of sulfates in the soil related to production of gas containing H<sub>2</sub>S on the LPC. Such management recommendations will be applied by the Participating Cooperator as Conservation Measures under this CI/CP in suitable and occupied SDL/LPC habitat where peer-reviewed science has shown that H<sub>2</sub>S levels threaten the LPC.

## Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts

In May 2008, the Pecos District Special Status Species Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) was approved and is being implemented. In addition to the standard practices that minimize impacts, as listed above, the following COA will apply:

- Timing Limitation Stipulation / Condition of Approval for lesser prairie-chicken, to minimize noise associated impacts which could disrupt breeding and nesting activities.
- Upon abandonment, a low profile abandoned well marker will be installed to prevent raptor perching.

## 3.7. Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants

### 3.7.1. Affected Environment

There are four plant species within the CFO that are identified in the New Mexico Noxious Weed List Noxious Weed Management Act of 1998. These species are African rue, Malta starthistle, Russian olive, and salt cedar. African rue and Malta starthistle populations have been identified throughout the Carlsbad Field Office and mainly occur along the shoulders of highway, state and county roads, lease roads and well pads (especially abandoned well pads). The CFO has an active noxious weed monitoring and treatment program, and partners with county, state and federal agencies and industry to treat infested areas with chemical and monitor the counties for new infestations.

African Rue has been treated where the project crosses a lease road in section 10, T. 25 S., R. 32 E.

### 3.7.2. Impacts from the Proposed Action

#### Direct and Indirect Effects

Any surface disturbance could increase the possibility of establishment of new populations of invasive, non-native species. The construction of the proposed action may contribute to the establishment and spread of African rue and Malta starthistle. The main mechanism for seed dispersion would be by equipment and vehicles that were previously used and/or driven across noxious weed infested areas. Noxious weed seed could be carried to and from the project area by construction equipment and transport vehicles.

#### Mitigation Measures

The operator shall be held responsible if noxious weeds become established within the areas of operations. Weed control shall be required on the disturbed land where noxious weeds exist, which includes the roads, pads, associated pipeline corridor, and adjacent land affected by the establishment of weeds due to this action. The operator shall consult with the Authorized Officer for acceptable weed control methods, which include following EPA and BLM requirements and policies.

## 3.8. Cultural and Historical Resources

### Affected Environment

The project falls within the Southeastern New Mexico Archaeological Region. This region contains the following cultural/temporal periods: Paleo-Indian (ca. 11,500 – 7,000 B.C.), Archaic (ca. 6,000 B.C. – A.D. 500), Ceramic (ca. A.D. 500 – 1400), Post Formative Native American (ca. A.D. 1400 – present), and Historic Euro-American (ca. A.D. 1865 to present). Sites representing any or all of these periods are known to occur within the region. A more complete discussion can be found in *The Human Landscape in Southeastern New Mexico: A Class I Overview of Cultural Resources Within the Bureau of Land Management's Carlsbad Field Office Region*, published in 2012 by SWCA Environmental Consultants.

#### Native American Religious Concerns

The BLM conducts Native American consultation regarding Traditional Cultural Places (TCP) and Sacred Sites during land-use planning and its associated environmental impact review. In addition, during the oil & gas lease sale process, Native American consultation is conducted to identify TCPs and sacred sites whose management, preservation, or use would be incompatible with oil and gas or other land-use authorizations. With regard to Traditional Cultural Properties, the BLM has very little knowledge of tribal sacred or traditional use sites, and these sites may not be apparent to archaeologists performing surveys in advance of drilling.

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## ***Impacts from the Proposed Action***

### **Direct and Indirect Effects**

The project falls within the area covered by the Permian Basin Programmatic Agreement (PA). The Permian Basin PA is an optional method of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for energy related projects in a 28 quadrangle area of the Carlsbad Field Office. The PA is a form of off-site mitigation which allows industry to design projects to avoid known NRHP eligible cultural resources and to contribute to a mitigation fund in lieu of paying for additional archaeological inventory in this area that has received adequate previous survey. Funds received from the Permian Basin PA will be utilized to conduct archaeological research and outreach in Southeastern New Mexico. Research will include archaeological excavation of significant sites, predictive modeling, targeted research activities, as well as professional and public presentations on the results of the investigations.

The proponent chose to participate in the Permian Basin PA by planning to avoid all known NRHP eligible and potentially eligible cultural resources. The proponent has contributed funds commensurate to the undertaking into an account for offsite mitigation. Participation in the PA serves as mitigation for the effects of this project on cultural resources. If any skeletal remains that might be human or funerary objects are discovered by any activities, the project proponent will cease activities in the area of discovery and notify the BLM within 24 hours as required by the Permian Basin PA.

### **Mitigation Measures**

As currently proposed, there are no mitigations measures required for this project.

## **3.9. Paleontology**

### ***3.9.1. Affected Environment***

Paleontological resources are any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth. Fossil remains may include bones, teeth, tracks, shells, leaves, imprints, and wood. Paleontological resources include not only the actual fossils but also the geological deposits that contain them and are recognized as nonrenewable scientific resources protected by federal statutes and policies.

The primary federal legislation for the protection and conservation of paleontological resources occurring on federally administered lands are the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (NEPA). BLM has also developed policy guidelines for addressing potential impacts to paleontological resources (BLM, 1998a,b; 2008, 2009). In addition, paleontological resources on state trust lands are protected by state policy from unauthorized appropriation, damage, removal, or use.

The Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) is a tool that allows the BLM to predict the likelihood of a geologic unit to contain paleontological resources. The PFYC is based on a numeric system of 1-5, with PFYC 1 having little likelihood of containing paleontological resources, whereas a PFYC 5 value is a geologic unit that is known to contain abundant scientifically significant paleontological resources. The fossil resources of concern in this area are the remains of vertebrates, which include species of fish, amphibians, and mammals.

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### **3.9.2. Impacts from the Proposed Action**

#### **Direct and Indirect Effects**

Direct impacts would result in the immediate physical loss of scientifically significant fossils and their contextual data. Impacts indirectly associated with ground disturbance could subject fossils to damage or destruction from erosion, as well as creating improved access to the public and increased visibility, potentially resulting in unauthorized collection or vandalism. However, not all impacts of construction are detrimental to paleontology. Ground disturbance can reveal significant fossils that would otherwise remain buried and unavailable for scientific study. In this manner, ground disturbance can result in beneficial impacts. Such fossils can be collected properly and curated into the museum collection of a qualified repository making them available for scientific study and education.

The location of the proposed project is within a PFYC #2 (management concern for paleontological resources is generally low. Assessment or mitigation is usually unnecessary except in rare or isolated circumstances). A pedestrian survey for paleontological resources was not necessary and there should be no impacts to paleontological resources.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

There are no mitigation measures for this project, as currently proposed.

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### **3.10. Potash Resources**

#### **3.10.1. Affected Environment**

Potash resources in SE New Mexico are located in an area governed by the rules of the Secretary of the Interior's 2012 Order dated December 4, 2012. This area is commonly called the Secretary's Potash Area. The Secretary's 2012 Order was written to establish rules for concurrent operations in prospecting for, development and production of oil and gas and potash deposits owned by the United States within the designated Potash Area. The Potash Area completely encompasses the Known Potash Leasing Area which was established for the administration of potassium leasing.

The Secretary's Potash Area is comprised of four classifications respective to the density of core holes or geophysical inference. These classifications are: Measured Ore (Potash Enclave), Indicated Ore, Inferred Ore, and Barren of Potash Ore.

The proposed location is located in an are composed of Measured (Enclave) Ore. Measured Ore are potash resources for which tonnage is computed from dimensions revealed in workings and drill holes. The grade is computed from the results of detailed sampling. Measured ore will be delineated by data points no more than 1½ miles apart if geologic inference shows these projections to be reasonable. Measured ore will not be delineated by fewer than three data points that meet all other distance, thickness and grade criteria. Measured ore is not projected further than one-half mile from a data point which meets thickness and quality standards where no projection or geologic inference data exists.

The proposed location is located in an area composed of Barren and/or minor potash mineralization. Barren and/or minor potash mineralization areas are composed of sub economic resources that would require a substantially higher market value or major cost reducing technology for economical production. Sub economic resources also include other minerals not presently being recovered.

The proposed location is located in an area composed of undetermined potash mineralization. Undetermined potash mineralization are areas where there is no core hole data or core hole data was not assayed to determine whether the area is barren or not.

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## ***Impacts from the Proposed Action***

### **Direct and Indirect Effects**

Potential impacts of drilling operations to potash resources could include migration of hydrocarbons through impermeable formations or fractures within the formations that might provide a conduit to mine workings from improperly cased wells. Any potential impacts created by drilling these oil wells will be evaluated prior to future mining operations in this area being approved by BLM.

Reserves are lost because a support pillar of sufficient size must be left or extraction of the reserves around the well bore must be held to an amount where subsidence does not occur as to harm the well bore.

Proposed projects can be expected to be relocated to minimize impacts to potash resources while allowing drainage of remote areas within the potash enclave.

Due to the proposed well being located within Measured Ore (Potash Enclave) reserves; it would affect economical potash resources. The proximity of the Getty 24 Federal 12, Neff 13 Federal 18 and Neff 13 Federal 19 are located approximately 4.7 miles south of the active mine workings of Intrepid's East Mine. Refer to Potash Area – memo contained in the above identified well files regarding specific Approval Criteria concerning potash resources.

Due to the proposed well located in an area that is barren of potash reserves; it would not affect economical potash reserves or resources. The proximity of the Lily ALY Federal 11 wellbore is located approximately 6.7 miles southwest of the active mine works of the Mosaic Mine. Refer to Potash Area – memo contained in the above identified well files regarding specific Approval Criteria concerning potash resources.

Due to the proposed well being located in an area that is undetermined potash mineralization, it may affect economical potash reserves or resources. The proximity of the Lily ALY Federal 10H wellbore is located approximately 6.3 miles southeast of the active mine works of the Mosaic Mine. Refer to Potash Area – memo contained in the above identified well files regarding specific Approval Criteria concerning potash resources.

### **Mitigation Measures**

None

## **3.11. Environmental Justice Analysis**

### ***Affected Environment***

Executive Order 12898, issued on 11 February 1994, addresses concerns over disproportionate environmental and human health impacts on minority and low-income populations. The impetus behind environmental justice is to ensure that all communities, including minority, low-income, or federally recognized tribes, live in a safe and healthful environment.

Portions of the Cities of Carlsbad and Hobbs consist of minorities with some low-income populations. However, these drilling operations will take place in rural areas where these populations do not exist.

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## ***Impacts from the Proposed Action***

### **Direct and Indirect Impacts**

The site of the proposed drilling project is located in an uninhabited, remote portion of public lands. Accordingly, this program does not have potential to disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations. The project has no potential consequences for population, schools, or emergency services in Eddy or Lea Counties.

No displacements are anticipated as a result of this project. In accordance with Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, no disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental impacts upon minority populations is anticipated as a result of the project. The proposed project will not permanently disrupt any existing or proposed neighborhood, or adversely affect community cohesion.

### **Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts**

None

## **3.12. Socio Economic**

### ***Affected Environment***

This drilling program would be taking place in rural portions of Eddy County. In 2009, New Mexico was the second largest producer of natural gas and crude oil in the nation. Eddy County ranked second only to Lea County in oil production and ranked third in natural gas production. Billions of dollars in taxes, royalties, and other earnings are collected from oil and gas production in New Mexico.

The proposed drilling programs would involve approximately 10-20 personnel. A slight positive economic effect may result from short-term employment in service activities directly supporting the drilling programs and from the presence of additional personnel in the local area requiring goods and services.

The drilling program area lies within the "Secretary's Potash Area" as defined by the 2012 Secretary's Order and also lies approximately 10.4 miles southeast of the active mine works of the Mosaic Mine.

### ***Impacts from the Proposed Action***

#### **Direct and Indirect Impacts**

The only potential effects would be to the ranching, potash or oil and gas industries.

Social and economic impacts may result if the proposed project:

- Produces change in neighborhood or community cohesion; or
- Especially benefits or harms social groups (e.g., elderly); or
- Causes economic effects on the regional and/or local economy (e.g., tax revenues); or
- Effects the economic viability of existing business; or
- Disrupts or substantially changes existing economic patterns.

There would be few effects on the ranching or farming industries of Eddy or Lea Counties due to the proposed action. This drilling program, as proposed, would employ crews to support a drilling rig and necessary maintenance and production operations should the wells produce.

If a major oil or gas discovery is made as a result of this drilling program, some hiring is possible within the local area by Devon. A slight positive economic effect may result from short-term employment in service activities directly supporting the drilling program and from the presence of additional personnel in the local area requiring goods and services.

Should these wells not be drilled, potential Socio Economic effects could occur to the Oil and Gas industry and on the communities as potential deposits of hydrocarbons would not be developed.

The effects to ranching could include the risk of livestock being struck by vehicles, long term loss of vegetation for grazing purposes, or ingesting of noxious weeds.

### **Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts**

None

### 3.13. Cumulative Impacts

The time frame for the cumulative impact analysis encompasses the projected life of drilling, production and abandonment of this well. Should this well become a producing well, potential effects could occur to potash reserves should field development take place to the north. Mosaic eventually plans to mine the measured ore reserves in those areas to the northwest. In addition to the additional drilling of wells, additional production facilities will be required as well as lease roads, pipelines and caliche pits. The area to the northwest is prone to subsidence due in part to ongoing and past mining operations which could create a hazard to any structures constructed in the area. The area may also be subjected to additional surface disturbing activity caused by seismic operations in order to delineate any newly discovered oil field(s).

## 4. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 4.1. List of Preparers

Prepared by: Emily K. Wirth  
Wildlife Biologist  
Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management  
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Date: 1/29/2015

The following individuals aided in the preparation of this document:

- Tammie Hochstein, Realty Specialist BLM-CFO
- Hila Nelson, Archaeologist, BLM-CFO
- Johnny Chopp, Wildlife Biologist, BLM-CFO

### 4.2. References

Draft New Mexico GHG Inventory and Reference Case Projection – June 2005.  
(Available on the Internet: <http://www.nmclimatechange.us/ewebeditpro/items/O117F6527.pdf>)

EPA Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2006.  
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Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). 2001. Climate Change 2001: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II, III to the Third Assessment Report. (Available on the Internet: [http://www.grida.no/publications/other/ipcc\\_tar/?src=/climate/ipcc\\_tar/](http://www.grida.no/publications/other/ipcc_tar/?src=/climate/ipcc_tar/))

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2014). *DRAFT INVENTORY OF U.S. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND SINKS: 1990-2012*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**DECISION RECORD (DR)  
AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)  
Pecos District, Carlsbad Field Office**

**DOI-BLM-NM-P020-20XX-XXXX-EA  
Devon Energy Production Company, L.P.  
ROW Number  
Cotton Draw Gathering**

**Purpose and Need for Action**

Devon Energy Production Company, L.P. (Devon) has submitted an SF-299 (Application for Transportation and Utility Systems on Public Lands) to the BLM, Carlsbad Field Office (CFO), requesting permission to construct, operate, terminate and maintain 27 buried pipelines: two 16" steel gas pipelines, eight 8" Poly SDR 7 SWD pipelines, five 6" Polyflow Thermoflex pipelines, five 4" Poly SDR 7 SWD lines, two 12" steel gas pipelines, three 10" steel gas pipelines, and two 20" steel gas pipelines under a right-of-way authorization. The general location is approximately 20 miles southeast of Malaga, NM. The legal land description of the proposed right-of-way infrastructure is described as follows:

**Lippizzan Lateral Segment #1**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy and Lea Counties

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**  
Sec. 1, N2N2

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 6, N2N2  
Sec. 5, N2N2  
Sec. 4, NW

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 33, SWSW

**Lippizzan 4 Fed 1H Battery Connect**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 33, SWSW

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 4, NWNW

**Lippizzan Lateral East Segment #2**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 33, SWSW

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**  
Sec. 4, N2N2  
Sec. 3, N2NW, E2NW, E2SW  
Sec. 10, E2W2

**CDU 237H Battery Connect**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

**T. 25 S., R. 32 E.,**

Sec. 10, S2SW

**CDU 33 State Fed Com 1 Battery**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**

Sec. 33, W2W2, NENW

**CDU 32 State Fed 3H Com Battery Connect**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**

Sec. 32, N2SE, NESW

Sec. 33, NWSW

**CDU 32 State Fed 1H Com Battery Connect**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Lea County

**T. 24 S., R. 32 E.,**

Sec. 32, NESE

Sec. 33, NWSW

**Cotton Draw Trunkline North Segment #2**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

**T. 24 S., R. 31 E.,**

Sec. 36, E2W2

Sec. 25, E2SW, SENW

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**

Sec. 1, Lot 3

**Cotton Draw Trunk Line Segment 1**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

**T. 24 S., R. 31 E.,**

Sec. 36, SESW

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**

Sec. 1, N2NW, SWNW, W2SW

Sec. 2, NE

Sec. 12, W2NW, NWSW

**Big Sinks Draw Trunk**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**

Sec. 12, W2SW

Sec. 13, W2W2

Sec. 24, W2W2

Sec. 25, W2NW

**Big Sinks Draw 25 BS Battery Connect**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

**T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,**

Sec. 25, SWNW

**Belgian Shire Lateral**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,  
Sec 24, NWNW  
Sec. 23, N2N2, SWNW

**CDU 13-18 Lateral**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,  
Sec 12, S2S2

**CDU 172 Lateral**

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Eddy County

T. 25 S., R. 31 E.,  
Sec 12, N2N2

**Mitigation Measures:** The mitigation measures include:

1. Standard Stipulations for buried pipelines.
2. Special Stipulations for construction in Lesser Prairie-Chicken habitat.
3. Special Stipulations for construction in the Secretary's Potash area.

**Recommendation and Rationale:**

Our analysis has shown with proper mitigation the proposed action would have minimal environmental impacts. The proposed action is consistent with the 1988 Carlsbad Resource Management Plan, as amended by the 1997 Carlsbad Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment, and the 2008 Special Status Species Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment. Therefore, it is recommended that this application be approved.

Prepared by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammie Hochstein, Realty Specialist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record:**

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described above will not have any significant impacts on the human environment, no significant impacts to minority or low-income populations or communities have been identified for the proposed action and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the project with the mitigation measures as described above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
George MacDonell, Field Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office, BLM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date