DECISION RECORD

DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2015-0045-DNA

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the construction of the water pipeline, in order to provide adequate water supply, and to provide better water distribution on Allotment #64026, Rock Tank. Total length to be installed is 0.4 miles of pipeline. Pipeline will be placed on public land to ensure water supply and availability of water.

Location of the pipeline is as follows:

Township 8 South, Range 22 East, Sections 19 and 20 in Chaves County, New Mexico Principle Meridian (please refer to the map in the Determination of NEPA Adequacy.)

Actual construction of the pipeline will be done by the allottee. Pipeline construction is normally accomplished during the summer months, June through September, however, due to the need of this line, construction will take place as soon as authorization is given. The surface protection procedures set forth in the proposed action have been incorporated into the Determination of NEPA Adequacy.

Rationale for Recommendations: The decision to authorize the proposed action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The action is consistent with planned actions presented in the Management Framework Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement on Rangeland Management in the Roswell Resource Area (1984), and the Roswell Resource Area Resource Management Plan (Draft, 1994), the Roswell Resource Area Resource Management Plan (Final, 1997) and the Roswell Resource Plan Amendment.

In accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 4100, Sec 4160.2 any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interests may protest this proposed decision in person or in writing to the authorized officer, within 15 days after receipt of this decision. Please be specific in your points of protest.

In the absence of a protest, this proposed decision will become the final decision without further notice. Any person who is adversely affected by a final decision of the authorized officer may file a written appeal to the Final Decision for the purpose of a hearing before an administrative law judge under 43 CFR 4.470. A period of 30 days after the decision becomes final is provided in which to file an appeal and a petition for stay of the decision in this office (43 CFR §§4160.3 [c] and §§4160.4).

Kyle Arnold,
Assistant Field Manager, Resources

6/2/15
Date

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
Pecos District, Roswell Field Office

Documentation of Land Use Plan Compliance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2015-0045-DNA

A. Roswell Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No.: Allotment 64026

Proposed Action Title/Type: 2015 Rock Tank Pipeline.

Location of Proposed Action:

T. 8 S., R. 22 E. Sections 19, 20
NMPM, Chaves County, New Mexico

Description of Proposed Action: Construction of approximately 0.4 miles of new water pipeline on public land, along with 1 new rubber tire drinker (see attached maps).

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name: *Roswell Resource Management Plan*, Date Approved: October 1997
Other document: DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2013-424-*EA*, Date Approved: 6/10/2013

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plan decisions:

> Livestock Grazing Management, p. 31: "Rangeland improvements and vegetation treatments will continue to be implemented to improve or maintain forage productions and range condition, in an effort to achieve the Desired Plant Community." And Appendix 8: Decisions from Previous Planning Documents which are carried forward.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the Proposed action.

DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2013-424-*EA* Date Approved: 6/10/2013

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Yes, this new construction will substantially serve the same purpose, differing only in location.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values and circumstances? Yes, no new environmental concerns have been raised. Resource values will increase as the pipeline will serve to reduce grazing pressure elsewhere.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are

insignificant with regard to analysis on the proposed action? Yes. No new information or circumstances have been made apparent.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action? Yes.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged for those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action? Yes.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from the implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Yes.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action? Yes. The original EA was reviewed by members of the public, NM Game & Fish, the allottee and other interested publics.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet. See attached EA Checklist.

F. Mitigation Measure: Please review the original EA for mitigation measures and construction requirements.

G. In the original EA, visual resources were not adequately addressed. That is resolved as follows:
Visual Resources

The setting presents a winter gray color pattern, and in warm months, with foliage, a gray to gray-green color pattern. Wide-area landscape tends to be horizontal in line and flat in form, with a smooth texture. The basic landscape elements of form, line color and texture would not change within the allotments under any management alternative. Potential impacts to visual resources would be analyzed and mitigated as allotment management activities are proposed in the future. Range facilities such as windmills and fences tend to be a translucent grey in color and blend favorably with grey and grey-green settings.

Mitigation

To blend favorably with the setting, facilities would be painted a flat grey or grey-green color. Other translucent colors, such as juniper green and brown can be used, as long as they blend with the setting.

H. The alloment is a karst-heavy area and was not adequately analyzed in the original EA nor were mitigation measures considered. The same applies to visual resources. That is resolved as follows:

Karst Resources - Affected Environment

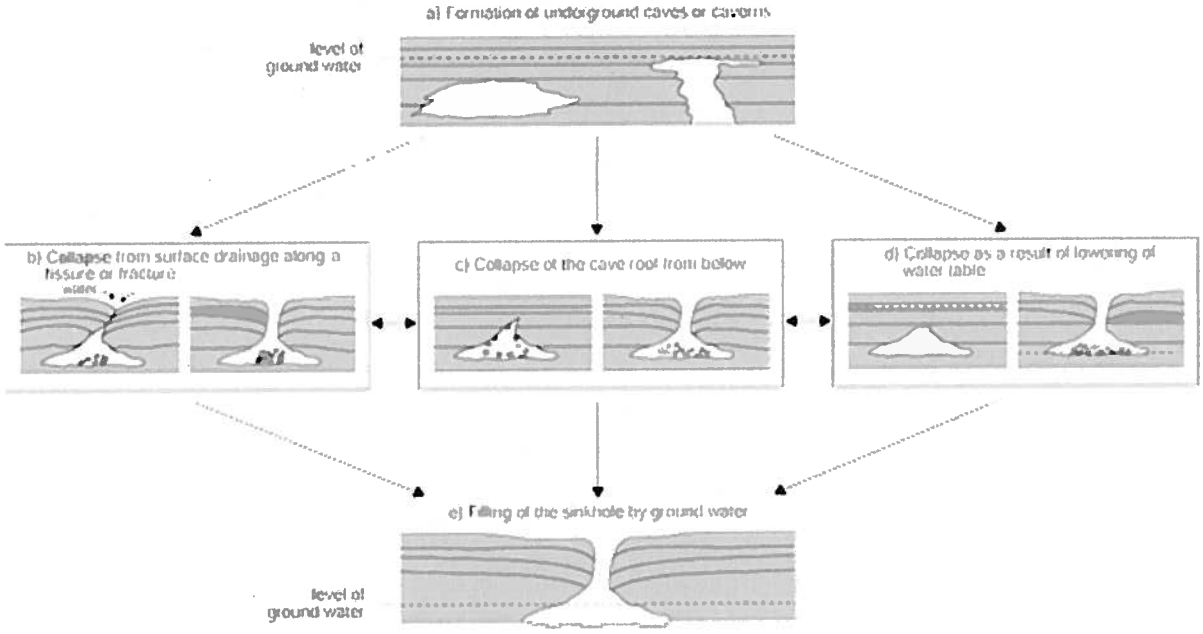
This proposed project is located in gypsum karst terrain, a landform that is characterized by underground drainage through solutionally enlarged conduits. Gypsum karst terrain may contain sinkholes, sinking streams, caves, and springs. Sinkholes leading to underground drainages and voids are common. These karst features, as well as occasional fissures and discontinuities in the bedrock, provide the primary sources for rapid recharge of the groundwater aquifers of the region.

The BLM categorizes all areas within the Roswell Field Office as having either low, medium, high cave potential based on geology, occurrence of known caves, density of karst features, and potential impacts to fresh water aquifers. This project occurs within a High karst zone and is located within 3 miles of known cave(s) or karst feature(s). A High karst zone is defined as an area in known soluble rock types and contains a high frequency of significant caves and karst features such as sinkholes, bedrock fractures that provide rapid recharge of karst aquifers, and springs that provide riparian habitat.

Unknown features may also exist. Due to these factors, this action is subject to mitigation measures designed to adequately protect known and potential cave/karst resources.

Sinkholes and cave entrances collect water and can accumulate rich organic materials and soils. This, in conjunction with the stable microclimate near cave entrances, support a greater diversity and density of plant life which provides habitat for a greater diversity and density of wildlife such as raptors, rodents, mammals, and reptiles.

The interior of the caves support a large variety of troglobitic, or cave environment-dependent species. The troglobitic species have adapted specifically to the cave environment due to constant temperatures, constant high humidity, and total darkness. Some of the caves in the area contain bat colonies. Many of the caves in this area contain fragile cave formations known as speleothems.



Sinkhole Development (http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/tour/state/bottomless_lakes/home.html)

White Nose Syndrome and Identified Hibernacula

Many Roswell Field Office caves are identified or potential hibernation sites and are optimum sites for White Nose Syndrome (WNS) establishment. Any karst area north of Roswell is subject to this situation. While WNS is still 500 miles from the area, it is still of great concern to the bat population in this area. White Nose Syndrome was first documented on hibernating bats at Howe caverns in 2006 in New York and by 2014 it had moved over 1300 miles across twenty eastern and southern states, and five Canadian provinces, and has killed well over 10 million bats. Infection is definitely bat-to-bat and humans are suspected of transporting the spores

http://whitenosesyndrome.org/ &
http://static.whitenosesyndrome.org/sites/default/files/resource/wnshumantransmissionposter.pdf

Environmental Impacts

Cave and karst features provide direct conduits leading to groundwater. These conduits can quickly transport surface and subsurface contaminants directly into underground water systems and freshwater aquifers without filtration or biodegradation. In addition, contaminates spilled or leaked into or onto cave/karst zone surfaces and subsurfaces may lead directly to the disruption, displacement, or extermination of cave species and critical biological processes.

In cave and karst terrains, rainfall and surface runoff is directly channeled into natural underground water systems and aquifers. Changes in geologic formation integrity, runoff quantity/quality, drainage course, rainfall percolation factors, vegetation, surface contour, and other surface factors can negatively impact cave ecosystems and aquifer recharge processes. Blasting, heavy vibrations, and focusing of surface drainages can lead to slow subsidence, sudden collapse of subsurface voids, and/or cave ecosystem damage.

BLM maintains up to date locations and surveys of known cave and karst features. Projects will be located away from these features whenever possible. Fences and pipelines will be routed around cave and karst features at an adequate distance to mitigate adverse impacts

Highly sensitive cave and karst areas with critical freshwater aquifer recharge concerns may have a number of special surface and subsurface planning and construction requirements based upon the risk of adverse impacts created by a specific location or process.

Construction Impact Analysis

The construction of roads, pipelines,fences and utilities can impact bedrock integrity and reroute, impede, focus, or erode natural surface drainage systems. Increased silting and sedimentation from construction can plug downstream sinkholes, caves, springs, and other components of aquifer recharge systems and result in adverse impacts to aquifer quality and cave environments. Any contaminants released into the environment during or after construction can impact aquifers and cave systems. A possibility exists for slow subsidence or sudden surface collapse during construction operations due to collapse of underlying cave passages and voids. This would cause associated safety hazards to the operator and the potential for increased environmental impact. Subsidence processes can be triggered by blasting, intense vibrations, rerouting of surface drainages, focusing of surface drainage, and general surface disturbance.

Blasting fractures in bedrock can serve as direct conduits for transfer of contaminants into cave and groundwater systems. Blasting also creates an expanded volume of rock rubble that cannot be reclaimed to natural contours, soil condition, or native vegetative condition. As such, surface and subsurface disruptions from blasting procedures can lead to permanent changes in vegetation, rainfall percolation, silting/erosion factors, aquifer recharge, and freshwater quality and can increase the risk of contaminant migration from drilling/production facilities built atop the blast area.

Construction Mitigation

In order to mitigate the impacts from construction activities on cave and karst resources, the following Conditions of Approval will apply to this DNA:

- In the event that any underground voids are encountered during construction activities, construction activities will be halted and the BLM will be notified immediately.

Livestock Mitigation

Livestock grazing could be affected by the presence of karst features if livestock became entrapped in deep sinkholes, which has occurred with sheep grazing in the proposed action area. This could be prevented by creating exclosures around identified karst features that pose a hazard to livestock. In the event that range improvement projects are proposed, the presence of karst features would be further analyzed in related environmental assessments. The project area provides habitat for bats, primarily Townsend's Western Big-eared Bat, Small-footed Bat and Cave Myotis.

Additional Mitigation

✱A separate Environmental Analysis would be prepared to construct an exclosure fence.
✱In the event that range improvement projects are proposed, the presence of karst features would be further analyzed in related environmental assessments.
✱If at a later date, more significant caves or karst features are found on public land within the allotment, that cave or feature may be fenced to exclude livestock grazing and Off Highway Vehicle Use.
✱Any cave or karst feature, such as a deep sinkhole, discovered by the co-operator/contractor or any person working on the co-operator's/contractor behalf, on BLM-managed public land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate action(s). Any decision as to the further mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the co-operator/contractor.
✱All known Roswell Field Office hibernacula are require a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for public entry. Major hibernacula are being monitored for the presence of White Nose Sydrome. Any proposed entry whatsoever of these caves must be formally proposed to BLM.

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action. This constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirement of NEPA.

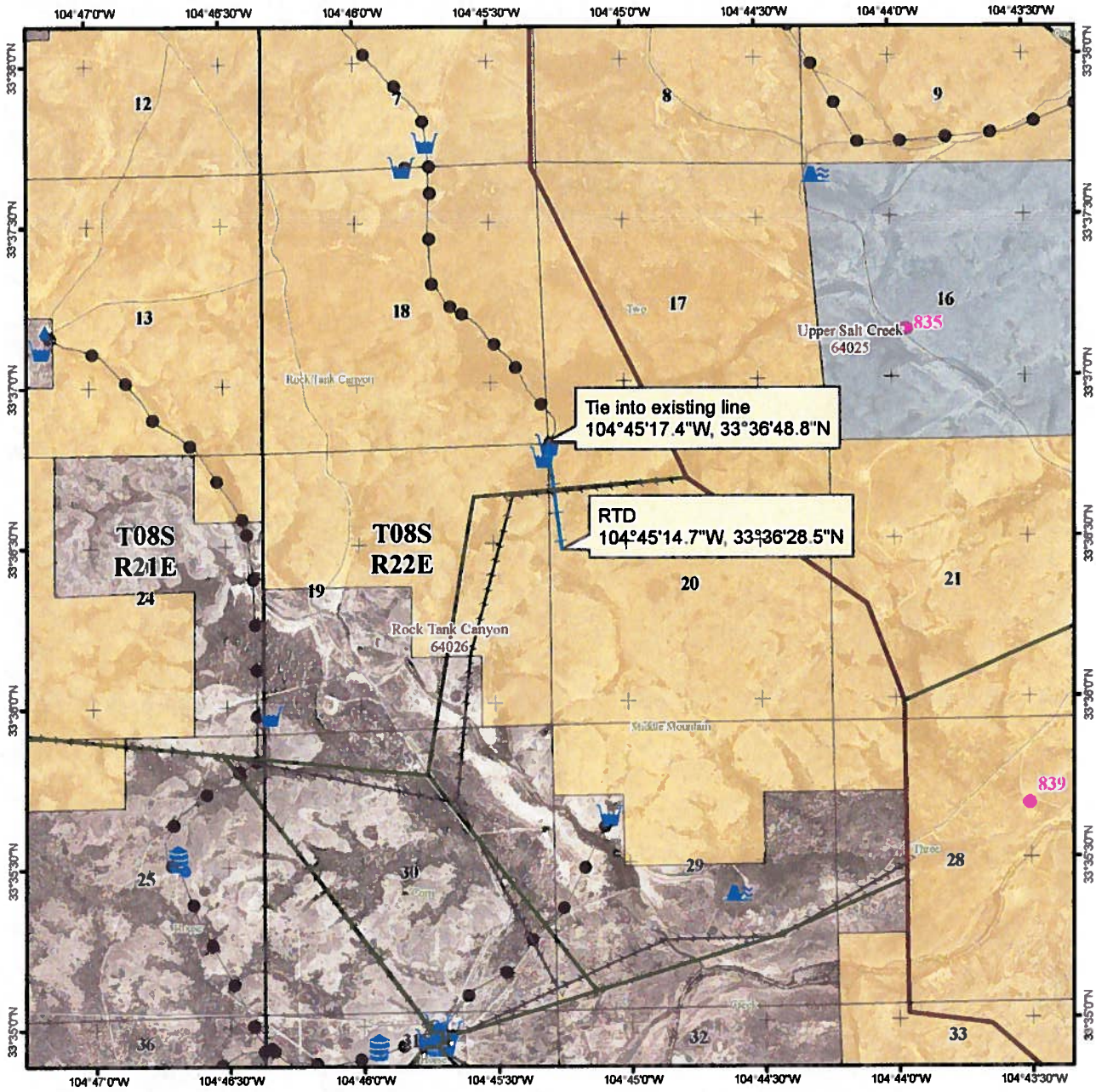
Signature of the Responsible Official

6/2/15
Date

PIPELINE DESCRIPTION OF MITIGATOIN MEASURES AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS:

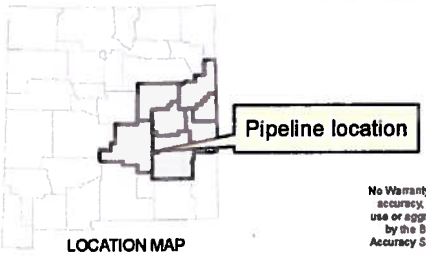
Mitigation incorporated into proposed action: A linear area of disturbance from pipeline will remain on the landscape. This feature will not stand out significantly on the landscape due to the fact that it will be installed along an existing roadway and natural re-vegetation of the trench will occur. The following mitigation measures will be necessary to ensure project construction as outlined in this document:

1. To minimize erosion, water bars to turn run-off water away from the pipeline will be required where necessary in areas with slopes of 10 percent or greater
2. No blading will occur on public land, unless approved by the Authorized Officer.
3. Water will be provided yearlong to all drinking tubs located on public land, for wildlife purposes, when livestock are not in the pasture. Wildlife escape ladders will be installed in all drinkers.
4. Livestock drinking tubs will not exceed 18" in height.
5. The co-operator/contractor shall not use the pipeline route as a road for purposes other than routine maintenance as determined necessary by the Authorized officer in consultation with the co-operator/contractor. The co-operator/contractor shall take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the pipeline route is not used as a roadway.
6. Vegetation, soil, and rocks left as a result on construction or maintenance activity shall be randomly scattered over the project area and shall not be left in rows, piles, or berms, unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer. A berm shall be left over the ditch line to allow for settling back to grade.
7. The co-operator/contractor shall indemnify the United States against any liability for damage to life or property arising from the occupancy or use of public land under this authorization.
8. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the co-operator/contractor or any person working on the co-operator/contractor's behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. The co-operator/contractor shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the Authorized Officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The co-operator/contractor shall be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to the proper mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Office after consulting with co-operator/contractor.
9. The co-operator/contractor is hereby obligated to comply with procedures established in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)to protect such cultural items as human remains, associated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony discovered inadvertently during the course of the implementation. In the event that any of the cultural items listed above are discovered during the course of project work, the proponent shall immediately halt the disturbance and contact the BLM within 24 hours for instructions. The proponent or initiator of any project shall be held responsible for protecting, evaluating, reporting, excavating, treating, and/or repatriation of these cultural items according to the procedures established by the BLM in consultation with Indian Tribes.
10. The co-operator/contractor shall be responsible for maintaining the site in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those sites shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to; human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.
11. The approval of the Permit/Agreement does not convey the right to prevent other lawful uses from occurring. The applicant/cooperator understands that other lawful users with proper authorizations.
12. To avoid impacts to the oil and gas industry and to allow for safety, all oil and gas operators and right-of-way holders will be contacted prior to the start of construction.



0 850 1,700 3,400 5,100 6,800 Feet

2,100' of pipe
Rancher wants 2,000' rolls.



LOCATION MAP

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information is subject to change without notification.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Roswell Field Office — New Mexico

PROJECT LOCATION MAP
2015 Rock Tank Pipeline, materials only

DESIGNED Russell Fox
REVIEWED Kyle Arnold
APPROVED Gary L Thompson

DRAWN by RF	SCALE 1:30,952
DATE: 01-06-15	SHEET 1 OF 1
DRAWING NO.	

Map produced by RFO GIS Specialist