CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

ROW Assignment Application

WYW-129953 and WYW141807

DOI-BLM-WY-R01-2011-0048-CX

BLM

Worland Field Office, Wind River/Bighorn Basin District, Wyoming

May 2011

The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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Categorical Exclusion Review

BLM Office: Worland Field Office **NEPA #** DOI-BLM-WY-R01-2011-0048-CX

Case File No: WYW-129953 and WYW-141807

Title of Proposed Action: Assignment of Rights-of-way **Name of Preparer:** Carol Sheaff

Location of Proposed Action: 6th PM, Big Horn County, Wyoming,

T. 50 N., R. 95 W.,
- sec. 3, Lot 8, SW¼NW¼, N½SW¼, SW¼SE¼;
- sec. 9, Lots 1-4, SE¼NE¼, NE¼SE¼;
- sec. 10, N½NE¼, SE¼NE¼, W½SW¼, SE¼SW¼, W½SE¼;
- sec. 16, Tract 38, Lots 2, 3, 5, and 9;
- sec. 17, Lots 1 and 2, W½NE¼, S½NW¼, N½SW¼, NW¼SE¼;
- sec. 18, Lot 7, NE¼SW¼, N½SE¼;

T. 51 N., R. 95 W.,
- sec. 33, SE¼SE¼;
- sec. 34, SW¼SW¼;

T. 50 N., R. 96 W.,
- sec. 13, N½S½;
- sec. 14, E½NE¼, NE¼SE¼.

Description of Proposed Action: Koch Exploration, Inc. has requested assignment for a natural gas pipeline connecting the Fritz State No. 1-16-2B well to CIG's mainline at Dorsey Meter, a well site 250' x 500' and an access road to serve the Fritz State 1-16-2B well across public land ROW. These rights-of-way were issued on September 6, 1994 to Aratex Production Company and December 3, 1997 to Intoil Inc., respectively WYW-129953 and WYW-141807. Several assignments were approved with the final assignment approved December 5, 2003 to Prima Exploration, the current holder of these rights-of-way. These rights-of-way are in compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant. This assignment is purely administrative with no new disturbance planned. There are no additional terms and conditions required for these actions. Proper assignment documentation for the action has been submitted.

Applicant: Koch Exploration Co., LLC; 9777 Pyramid Court, Ste 210; Englewood, CO 80112

Part I: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan:

Name of Plan: Grass Creek Resource Management Plan *Date Approved*: September 1998

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM Manual Section 1617.3.)

Reviewer (Environmental Coordinator)

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): GCRMP ROD pg 12; "The planning area will be open for rights-of-way development. Proposals will be addressed on an individual basis with emphasis on avoiding certain conflict or sensitive areas.

This proposal would be within an area available for linear right-of-way generally open to rights-of-way, and thus it would be in conformance with the land use plan.

Part II: NEPA REVIEW

Categorical Exclusion Review: This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9. It has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions of 43 CFR 46.215, described on the following page, apply.

Reviewer (Environmental Coordinator)

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9: E(9) "Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations."

Part III: DECISION. I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, subject to the terms and conditions or stipulation(s) and special stipulations attached in the case file.

Mitigation Measures/other Remarks: N/A

Authorizing Official: Don Krump Date: 5-14-2011
Assistant Field Manager, Minerals and Lands

Screening for Exceptions: Will this project...

Yes	No		
	X	A)	Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?
	X	B)	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
	X	C)	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].
	X	D)	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
	X	E)	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
	X	F)	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
	X	G)	Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.
	X	H)	Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.
	X	I)	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
	X	J)	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898).
	X	K)	Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007).
	X	L)	Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112).