

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0014-EA**

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



Environmental Assessment

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Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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Finding of No Significant Impacts

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Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

Approved by:



Jerry Kenczka
Assistant Field Manager Lands
and Minerals

1/29/2014
Date

Decision Record

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0014-EA

It is my decision to authorize QEPM Gathering I, LLCs proposal to install a 6-inch, surface, steel pipeline from the Clay Basin 7 Lateral 46 and tie into the Clay Basin 15 Lateral 270A. The gas will flow easterly. The pipeline is a high-pressure 6.625 O.D. with a 0.280 wall thickness Grade B pipe. The MAOP for the line is 1000 psig. The pipeline is 213 feet in length with a 30 foot permanent width, approximately 0.147 acres. No clearing or grading is required for the pipeline. Construction of the pipeline will take approximately 1 week. The pipeline will be pigged to remove excess dirt debris and then purged hydrostatically. Pipeline construction will commence upon completion and approval of all permits and right-of-way documents.

A 50' x 50' temporary area is needed for two (2) weeks to install a new tie in valve which will replace the existing valve. The new valve will be fenced. All permanent above ground facilities, valving and metering, not subject to safety requirements, will be painted (Covert Green) a flat non-contrasting color which simulates" standard environmental colors" designated by the Visual Resource Management Best Practices.

Access into the proposed pipeline will be from existing roads. All construction and vehicular traffic will be confined to the right-of-way corridor or designated county and/or BLM roads. No new access roads will be required for the construction. Approvals will be obtained from the BLM for the use of existing roads during construction. Authorized roads will be rehabilitated to preconstruction conditions after construction activities are complete, unless otherwise specified by regulating agency. Any associated building, zoning, and utility crossing permits will be secured from the appropriate regulatory agency prior to construction.

This Decision assumes that details of construction and reclamation provided in the Plan of Development (Exhibit B, dated September 10, 2013), and the applicant committed measures are the procedures that will be followed by QEPM Gathering I, LLC.

The decision to authorize the 6-inch surface gas pipeline has been made in consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposed action. This decision has been made after considering impacts to resources within the Vernal Field Office while accommodating QEPM Gathering I, LLCs desire to construct the surface pipeline.

Compliance and Monitoring

Compliance checks will be conducted in accordance with BLM regulations.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

The selected alternative has been reviewed, and found to be in conformance with decisions in the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 31, 2008). The RMP/ROD decision allows for processing of applications for rights of way on public lands in accordance with policy and guidance and allows for management of public lands to respond to public requests for land use authorizations (RMP/ROD p.86). It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative(s) will not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.

The proposed action is also consistent with the “Daggett County General Plan (Adopted 2008). The Daggett County General Plan contains specific policy statements addressing public and multiple-use, resource use and development, access, and wildlife management. In general, the Plan indicates support for development proposals through its emphasis on multiple-use, public land management practices, responsible use and optimum utilization of public land resources. The county, throughout the Plan, supports the development of natural resources as they become available as new technology allows.

Rationale

Authorities:

The authority for this decision is contained in Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185).

The decision to authorize the 6–inch surface gas pipeline has been made in consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposed action. This decision has been made after considering impacts to resources within the Vernal Field Office while accommodating QEPM Gathering I, LLCs desire to construct the surface pipeline.

Identification of issue(s) for this assessment was accomplished by considering any resources that could be affected by implementation of one of the alternatives.

Alternatives Considered

Alternative A-Proposed Action

QEPM Gathering I, LLCs proposed pipeline will allow for the transport of natural gas from Clay Basin 7 Lateral 46 to Clay Basin 15 Lateral 270A.

Alternative B-No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, QEPM Gathering I, LLC will not construct/install the 6–inch surface NGL pipeline. The No Action Alternative effectively constitutes denial of the Proposed Action.

Public involvement consisted of posting the proposal on the BLM E-Planning website. No public inquiries have been received..

Appeal or Protest Opportunities

Protest/Appeal Language This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10 for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Authorizing Official

Jerry Kenczka 1/28/2014
Assistant Field Manager Lands and Minerals Date

Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

This Environmental Assessment has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of QEPM Gathering I, LLCs proposed surface 6-inch natural gas pipeline. The proposed surface pipeline will run natural gas from Clay Basin 7 Lateral 46 to Clay Basin 15 Lateral 270A. The gas would flow easterly and tie into the Clay Basin 15 Lateral 273. The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of a proposed action or alternatives to the proposed action. An EA assists the BLM in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any “significant” impacts could result from the analyzed actions. “Significance” is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 CFR 1508.27. An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a statement of “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI). A FONSI is a document that briefly presents the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative would not result in “significant” environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan (VFORMP), October 2008. If the decision maker determines that this project has “significant” impacts following the analysis in the EA, then an EIS would be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record may be signed for the EA approving the alternative selected.

1.1. Identifying Information

1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project

Clay Basin 46 Loop Surface Lateral

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0014-EA

Surface Pipeline

1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21 in Township 3 North, Range 24 East, and end in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21 in Township 3 North, Range 24 East, Daggett County, Utah.

1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office

Lead Office - Vernal Field Office

170 S. 500 E.

Vernal Utah 84078

435-781-4400

1.1.4. Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number

Case file number UTU-90019

1.1.5. Applicant Name

QEPM Gathering I, LLC

1.2. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The BLM's need is to consider approval of the application to transport gas from the Clay Basin 7 Lateral 46 to the Clay Basin 15 Lateral 270A, in accordance with pursuant to Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185). BLM's purpose is to avoid or reduces impacts on sensitive resource values associated with the project area and prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands.

1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues

The proposed action was posted to the public BLM E-Planning website with its assigned NEPA number. To date, no questions or comments have been received. A public comment period was not offered due to the proposed action being similar in nature to other projects in the immediate area.

Issues identified by BLM Specialists are documented in Appendix A Interdisciplinary Team Checklist.

2.1. Description of the Proposed Action

A 6" steel surface pipeline will run natural gas from Clay Basin 7 Lateral 46 to Clay Basin 15 Lateral 270A. It will begin in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21 in Township 3 North, Range 24 East, and end in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21 in Township 3 North, Range 24 East, Daggett County, Utah. The gas will flow easterly and will tie into the Clay Basin 15 Lateral 270A.

The 6" pipeline will be a high-pressure surface 6.625" O.D. pipeline, 0.280" wall thickness, Grade B pipeline. The pipeline footage total on BLM land is 213'. The Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP) for the line is 1000 psig. QEPM Gathering I, LLC is proposing a 30' permanent ROW comprising of approximately 0.147 acres. The pipeline will operate year round and the right-of-way is requested for a term of 30 years.

Pipeline construction will commence upon approval of all permits and right-of-way documents. Pipeline construction will take approximately 1 week and approximately 2 weeks to install the to install the pig launcher and receiver. The pipeline will be pigged to remove excess dirt debris and then purged hydrostatically. All permanent, above-ground facilities, valving and metering, not subject to safety requirements, will be painted a flat non-contrasting color which simulates "standard environmental colors" designated by the Visual Resource Management Best Practice.

Facility Purpose and Need

The proposed pipeline will allow for the transport of natural gas from Clay Basin 7 Lateral 46 to Clay Basin 15 Lateral 270A.

Ancillary Right-Of-Way and Permits

Access into the proposed pipeline project will be from existing highways and roads. All construction and vehicular traffic will be confined to the right-of-way corridor or designated county and/or BLM roads unless otherwise authorized and approved by the regulating agency or landowner. No new access roads will be required for the construction of the project. Any associated building, zoning, and utility crossing permits will be secured from the appropriate regulatory agency prior to pipeline construction.

Engineering Surveys

All alignment maps, site-specific details, and design drawings associated with the above mentioned project are available for review at QEPM Gathering I, LLC's Vernal Office located at 418 East Main Street upon request. QEPM Gathering I, LLC will protect all survey monuments, witness corners, reference monuments, and bearing trees within the right-of-way against disturbance during construction, operations, maintenance, and rehabilitation. If any monument, corner or accessory is destroyed, obliterated, or damaged during construction, operation, or maintenance, QEPM Gathering I, LLC will have a registered surveyor restore the disturbed monument, corner or accessory using surveying procedures found in the "Manual of Surveying Instruction for the Survey of Public Lands of the United States" 1973 edition. QEPM Gathering I, LLC will record such survey in the appropriate county and send a copy to the appropriate BLM office.

Design and Engineering

The design and engineering will be completed by QEPM Gathering I, LLC

Inspection

QEPM Gathering I, LLC will be employing experienced and qualified pipeline inspectors to monitor and insure the quality of the pipeline installation. If a status report is required for the authorized officer, it will be available upon request. QEPM Gathering I, LLC will also be using a pipeline contractor with experienced personnel and specialized equipment making this project as cost effective and as non-intrusive as possible.

Pipeline Specifications

A 30' wide construction phase right-of-way will be necessary. Pipeline is designed in accordance with ASME 831.8. Pipe purchased will be PSL2 pipe manufactured in accordance to API 5L-" Specification for Line Pipe".

Mainline Pipe Specifications (depending on location) 6.625"O.D., 0.280" wall, Grade B.

Road crossing pipe (unimproved public roads and/or roads, highways, or public streets with hard surfaces):NON-cased crossings 6.625" O.D., 0.280" wall, Grade B.

Pipe will have a minimum of 14-16 mls Fusion Bond Epoxy (FBE) coating

Above-ground facilities (risers, valves, pig receivers and launchers, etc)

Tie-in valves and blow downs will be installed at the tie-ins to the existing lines

Flood Plain Specifications: Not applicable

Archaeological Specifications

An independent arch study has been completed by Aros Archaeology. The recommendations and determinations in attached report dated June 26, 2013 is: *The cultural resource inventory for QEPFS' proposed Clay Basin 46' Jumper gathering line resulted in the location of no cultural resources. Based on adherence to this recommendation, a determination of "no adverse effect" is proposed for the undertaking pursuant to Section 106, CFR 800.*

A copy of the report will be attached to the Form 299 and Plan of Development. QEPM Gathering I, LLC will comply with all recommendations.

Wildlife

A Bio (T&E) survey was completed by Outlaw Engineering, Inc. The recommendations and determinations dated June 26, 2013 are listed in the attached report.

Construction of the ROW Facility

Flagging and Staking the ROW

Centerline and exterior staking will be used along the pipeline route as stated in 43CFR.

Clearing/Grading of ROW and Construction Procedures.

Proposed pipeline is a 6" surface line there will not be any clearing or grading. Contractor will utilize industry available mechanical equipment necessary for safe pipeline construction activities.

Approximately 6 joints of pipe will be placed on a pipe skid. A contract welder will weld two 42' joints together at a time. After welding of joints the joints will be placed adjacent to access road to the project area by either a track hoe or back hoe or if necessary a boom truck. All welding will be conducted in compliance with the American Petroleum Institute (API) Standards 1104, "Welding of Pipelines and Related Facilities." *Equipment proposed on the pipeline project will include:* Welding Trucks, Two-Ton Trucks, Pickup Trucks, Backhoes and/or Track hoes, Side Boom

Earthwork Not applicable

Structure Installation Not applicable

Stabilization, Rehabilitation, and Vegetation

No ground disturbing activities are anticipated during construction or operation of the said 6" surface gathering line.

Operation and Maintenance of the Facility

Some operational opening and closing of valves and blowing down of laterals will be needed. Annual leak surveys, valve greasing, and inspections will be performed in the spring/summer/fall months. QEPM Gathering I, LLC, will work with the BLM to remediate any problems that might arise from the construction of this new pipeline.

Termination and Abandonment

QEPM Gathering I, LLC does not foresee any reason to terminate or abandon this pipeline before its term would expire. We have proven our ability to terminate and reclaim our pipelines and ROW in the past and will be able do so in this case also.

Miscellaneous Information

Waste Disposal

All trash will be kept cleaned up and hauled off premises.

Portable toilets will be furnished by contractors as needed for employees.

Traffic Control

Not applicable in this remote area

Safety Plan for Employees, Contractors, and General Public

QEPM Gathering I, LLC Employee Safety Plan will be adhered to by all associated with this project (Available on line at the Red Wash Office).

Fire Prevention

QEPM Gathering I, LLC' Fire Prevention Plans will be adhered to by all associated with this project. (Available upon request). If construction would take place during fire season, QEPM Gathering I, LLC would utilize precautionary measures if necessary to eliminate any fires.

Spill Prevention

QEPM Gathering I, LLC Spill Prevention Plans will be adhered to by all associated with this project. (Available upon request)

Temporary Use Permit (TUP)

50' x 50' area will be needed to install a tie in valve. The valve will replace the existing valve and will be fenced. Approximately (2) weeks will be needed for the temporary area to install the valve.

2.2. Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under this action, BLM would not approve the right-of-way application for the 6-inch surface pipeline. QEPM Gathering I, LLC would not be allowed to install the pipeline on federal land.

2.3. Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

There were no other alternatives identified aside from the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives that would meet the purpose and need of this project.

2.4. Conformance

The proposed action would be in conformance with the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 2008). The RMP/ROD decision allows ROWs on public lands in accordance with the Realty Decisions. It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative(s) would not conflict with any decisions throughout the plan.

Chapter 3. Affected Environment

This chapter presents the potentially affected existing environment (i.e. the physical, biological, social, and economic values and resources) of the impact area as identified in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist. This chapter provides the baseline for comparison of impacts/consequences described in Chapter 4.

3.1. Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate

Greater Sage-grouse

Greater sage-grouse are listed as a federal candidate species. These birds inhabit sagebrush foothills, plains, and mountain slopes where sagebrush is dominant (Nature Serve 2012). Sage-grouse require large expanses of sagebrush with good under stories of forbs and grasses for nutrition and shelter. Factors involved in the decline in both the distribution and abundance of sage-grouse include permanent loss, degradation, and fragmentation of sagebrush-steppe habitat throughout the western states including Utah (Heath et al. 1996, Braun 1998). Sage-grouse populations have declined (approximately 80%) from the mid-1960's to mid-1980's throughout much of the western states. Research and conservation efforts throughout the last twenty years have helped stabilize and recover many populations (UDWR 2013a).

In January of 2005, the USFWS completed a status review for greater sage-grouse and other numerous petitions. The status review was published "not warranted." In December 2007 the court remanded the decision on the combined greater sage-grouse petitions and required a new status review to be published by December 2008. The USFWS failed to publish the new status review and agreed with petitioners to publish the review by February 26, 2010. The USFWS announced that listing of the greater sage-grouse warrants the protection of the ESA, but that listing the species is precluded by the need to address higher priority species first. (73 FR 10218)

It is estimated that the proposed project would disturb approximately 0.1 acres of Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH).

Chapter 4. Environmental Effects

This chapter describes the direct and indirect impacts that would be expected to occur upon the implementation of the considered alternative. It also discloses the expected cumulative impacts, which are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

4.1. PROPOSED ACTION

4.1.1. Wildlife, Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate

Greater Sage-grouse

As stated in Chapter 3, greater sage-grouse are listed as a federal candidate species because of widespread losses of sagebrush habitat. It is anticipated that 0.1 acres would be disturbed along the 213' of pipeline to be placed. The identified PPH areas would not likely accumulate in a loss of sage-brush habitat, mainly forbs and grasses.

The Proposed Action Alternative is not anticipated to result in direct impacts, but could result in indirect impacts to sage-grouse. The surrounding area is highly fragmented with oil and gas infrastructure (i.e. roads, pipelines, well locations, storage yards, power lines, etc.). As traffic volumes and project-related activities increase, habitat quality for these species can also be degraded by the introduction of noxious and invasive weeds. Weed invasions may lead to a decrease in the amount of native perennials and bare ground, thereby degrading habitat for sage-grouse by decreasing forage quality for brood development. Successful reclamation efforts would minimize the spread of noxious and invasive weeds and would return disturbed habitats to pre-disturbance levels. Assuming successful reclamation, the Proposed Action Alternative will be in compliance with WO-IM-2012-043 (UDWR 2013b).

Overall, the Proposed Action Alternative may affect greater sage-grouse through displacement and habitat loss or degradation, but would be limited and short-term and is not likely to result in a trend towards federal listing of the species.

4.2. NO ACTION

The BLM would not approve the right-of-way for the proposed 6-inch surface, steel natural gas pipeline.

4.2.1. Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate

Under the No Action Alternative impacts to sage-grouse are not anticipated.

4.3. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

4.3.1. Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate

The cumulative impact area for greater sage-grouse is the State's Uintah Sage-Grouse Management Area (SGMA), which includes 793,559 acres of habitat. Habitat within the State's

SGMA encompasses some of the highest sage-grouse breeding density areas. The project would contribute to the loss of 0.1 acres of sage-grouse following project activities. The Proposed Action Alternative is not anticipated to result in direct impacts, but could result in indirect impacts to sage-grouse. The surrounding area is highly fragmented with oil and gas infrastructure (i.e. roads, pipelines, well locations, storage yards, power lines, etc.). As traffic volumes and project-related activities increase, habitat quality for these species can also be degraded by the introduction of noxious and invasive weeds. Weed invasions may lead to a decrease in the amount of native perennials and bare ground, thereby degrading habitat for sage-grouse by decreasing forage quality for brood development. Successful reclamation efforts would minimize the spread of noxious and invasive weeds and would return disturbed habitats to pre-disturbance levels. Reasonable foreseeable actions within the project area include increased recreational activities (camping, hiking, hunting, and off-highway vehicle use), oil & gas development, and grazing. The No Action alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:

Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Utah Division of State History	36CFR800.4(d)(1)	The Utah State Historic Preservation Office concurred with determination of No Historic Properties Affected. Letter dated August 26, 2013, received in our office August 29, 2013.
Brian Maxfield, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Designated PPH for Sage Grouse	Determined that the project is located within the Uintah SGMA. However, with the close proximity of the project to current infrastructure, there wouldn't be an adverse impact to sage-grouse in the area. E-mail dated December 12, 2013

Chapter 6. List of Preparers

See Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist. (Appendix A)

Chapter 7. References

Braun, C.E. 1998. Sage-grouse declines in western North America: what are the problems? Proceedings of the Western Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies. 78:139-156.

Heath, B., R. Straw, S. Anderson, and J. Lawson. 1996. Proceedings of the Greater Sagegrouse Workshop. Pinedale, WY.

Nature Serve. 2013. <http://www.natureserve.org/>. Greater Sage-grouse. Nature Serve Explorer. Web accessed 16 Dec. 2013.

UDWR. 2013a. [Http://dwrcdc.nr.utah.gov/ucdc/](http://dwrcdc.nr.utah.gov/ucdc/). Conservation Data Center. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Web accessed 16 Dec. 2013.

UDWR. 2013b. (B.Maxfield, personal communication, 12 Dec. 2013).

Appendix A.

A.1. INTERDISCIPLINARY CHECKLIST

Project Title: Clay Basin 46 Loop Surface Lateral

NEPA Log Number: DOI—BLM—G010—2014—0014—EA

File/Serial Number: UTU-90019

Project Leader: Margo Roberts

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Emissions will occur from vehicles in the project area, but those impacts will be short term & transitory so they will not be detectable by monitors or models. No standards have been set by EPA or other regulatory agencies for greenhouse gases. In addition, the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is still in its earliest stages of formulation. Global scientific models are inconsistent, and regional or local scientific models are lacking so that it is not technically feasible to determine the net impacts to climate due to greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions associated with this action and its alternative(s) would be negligible.	Stephanie Howard	11/07/2013
NP	BLM Natural Areas	The proposed project is not in a BLM Natural Area, per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS layers database.	Dan Gilfillan	12/4/2013

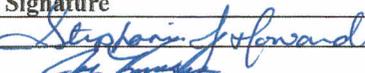
Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NP	Cultural: Archaeological Resources	No Historic Properties Affected 36CFR800.4(d)(1).	Jim McKenzie	11/22/2013
NP	Cultural: Native American Religious Concerns	No Native American Religious Concerns identified. Project will not restrict Native American access.	Jim McKenzie	11/22/2013
NI	Designated Areas: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	The proposed project is located within the Red Creek ACEC per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS layers database. The R&I value for the Red Creek ACEC is watershed. Please see the soils& vegetation and water sections of this document below in the checklist.	Dan Gilfillan	12/4/2013
NP	Designated Areas: Wild and Scenic Rivers	The proposed project is not in an Wild and Scenic Rivers area per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS layers database	Margo Roberts	11/07/2013
NP	Designated Areas: Wilderness Study Areas	No wilderness areas have been designated by the U.S. Congress on BLM lands in the VFO. The proposed project is not in a Wilderness/WSA area per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS layers database.	Dan Gilfillan	12/4/2013
NI	Environmental Justice	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities or populations would be disproportionately adversely affected by the proposed action or alternatives.	Margo Roberts	11/07/2013
NP	Farmlands (prime/unique)	No soil surveys have been completed by the NRCS for Daggett County , so no prime or unique farmlands have been designated.	Margo Roberts	11/07/2013
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	Disturbance in Wyoming big sagebrush vegetation type could increase the amount of invasive plants, specifically Bromus tectorum. The increase of Bromus tectorum could lead to an increase in fire frequency and rate of spread. Applying the Green River District Reclamation Guidelines should prevent additional hazardous fuels.	Blaine Tarbell	12/09/2013
NI	Geology/Minerals/ Energy Production	No geology or minerals will be adversely impacted by this project.	Betty Gamber	11/27/2013
NI	Invasive Plants/ Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation	VFO GIS data indicates limited Canada thistle infestation in the area, but the project is limited to upland soils north and east of tributaries of Clay Basin Creek.	Maggie Marston	1/7/2014

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Lands/Access	<p>The proposed area is located within the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan area, which allows for oil and gas development with associated road and pipeline right-of-ways. Current land uses, within the area identified in the proposed action and adjacent lands, consist of existing oil and gas development, wildlife habitat, recreational use, and sheep and cattle ranching. No existing land uses would be changed or modified by the implementation of the proposed action.</p> <p>The existing right-of-way holders in the project area have been notified of the project.</p> <p>Master Title Plats have been checked for conflicts with Public Water Reserves.</p> <p>Applicant Committed Measures: Permits from the counties will be obtained.</p>	Margo Roberts	11/07/2013
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)	No wilderness character was found in the Clay Basin Camp wilderness character unit per inventory completed on 12/19/2013.	Dan Gilfillan	12/19/13
NI	Livestock Grazing & Rangeland Health Standards	<p>Livestock Grazing: The proposed project is located within the Clay Basin Cattle allotment. The allotment is seasonally permitted from May 1 to November 30 with up to 845 AUMs and grazed by two separate operators. This area has many existing well sites and the proposed installation and pipeline will have little effects on the livestock grazing as the area is bisected by numerous roads and other oil and gas projects. The proposal is consistent with multiple use of public lands and other oil & gas activities in the area. It is not anticipated that this proposal would negatively impact grazing operations. There are no known range improvements in this allotment that would be impacted by this proposal.</p> <p>Rangeland Health Standards: This proposal is within the Clay Basin Allotment. This proposal is not expected to affect Rangeland Health Standards in this allotment.</p>	Craig Newman	12/09/2013
NP	Paleontology	If this surface pipeline is being placed in a previously disturbed area, no paleo resources will be disturbed. No paleo localities were present in Sec 21 on the GIS layer.	Betty Gamber	11/27/2013

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NP	Plants: BLM Sensitive	VFO GIS layers indicate potential habitat for <i>Penstemon acaulis</i> var. <i>acaulis</i> (stemless penstemon) north and south of the proposed action in Brownsto-Luhan soil complexes. Applicable soils are greater than 1/4 mile from the project, and the nearest known stemless penstemon individuals are found approximately 17 miles due west. Direct or indirect effects to BLM sensitive plant species are not present using current data sets.	Maggie Marston	1/7/2014
NP	Plants: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate	There are no Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate federally listed upland plant species or habitats known within this region of the Vernal Field Office as confirmed by VFO GIS and UNHP data layers. Nearest known listed plant species are limited to <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> (Ute Ladies'-tresses) found approximately 6 miles south along the Green River. <i>S. diluvialis</i> is suspected in Red Creek, greater than one mile west of the project, however occupied habitat has not been identified. Direct or indirect effects to federally listed plant species are not present using current data sets.	Maggie Marston	1/7/2014
NP	Plants: Wetland/Riparian	The proposed action lies between tributaries of Clay Basin Creek on upland soils, therefore wetland/riparian vegetation should remain unaffected.	Maggie Marston	1/7/2014
NI	Recreation	No developed recreation sites/trails or Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) exist within the project area. Limited recreational use in the area. Considered part of the Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA), where limited recreation management takes place. Recreational use of off highway vehicles (OHVs) is restricted to existing roads and trails.	Dan Gilfillan	12/4/2013
NI	Socio-Economics	No impact to the social or economic status of the county or nearby communities would occur from this project due to its small size in relation to ongoing development throughout the basin.	Stephanie Howard	11/07/2013

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Visual Resources	The identified project area occurs within Class IV lands. The objective of this class is to provide for management 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 elements. Most new projects would likely be approved in regards to a VRM perspective.	Dan Gilfillan	12/4/2013
NI	Wastes (hazardous/solid)	No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III in amounts greater than 10,000 pounds would be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Trash and other waste materials would be cleaned up and removed immediately after completion of operations.	Margo Roberts	11/07/2013
NP	Water: Floodplains	No 100 year mapped floodplains exist on the proposed project area as per GIS review and 2008 Vernal RMP review.	James Hereford II	12/4/2013
NI	Water: Groundwater Quality	Groundwater will not be impacted by this surface pipeline.	Betty Gamber	11/27/2013
NI	Water: Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	The proposed project will not affect the hydrologic conditions in the area. Current conditions include mainly dry ephemeral type washes and rills typical in a high desert ecosystem. The surface line will not disturb soils or vegetation to a degree that would alter the current hydrologic conditions on the ground.	James Hereford II	12/4/2013
NI	Water: Surface Water Quality	Surface water quality will not be affected by the proposed surface line project. The disturbance associated with surface lines is very negligible unless a spill happens. Since soils or vegetation will not be affected by the PA no additional analysis is necessary at this time. Company should insure that they have a SPCC plan in place to address those concerns if they occur.	James Hereford II	12/4/2013

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Water: Waters of the U.S.	Waters of the U.S. do not occur on the proposed project area. They do exist down gradient on the proposed action, however, since the PA is a surface laid line with minimal to no surface disturbance, no additional analysis is necessary at this time.	James Hereford II	12/4/2013
NP	Wild Horses	No herd areas or herd management areas are present in the proposed project area per VFO GIS data Base.	Margo Roberts	11/07/2013
NI	Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)	Migratory birds may be foraging within and near the area; however, project activities are not expected to disturb nesting or nuptial behavior. The surrounding area is heavily disturbed with existing oil & gas activities. In addition, there are no documented raptor nests within 0.5 miles of the project area.	Brandon McDonald	12/11/13
NI	Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated	The project area is located within crucial deer and elk winter range; however, project activities are not expected to significantly impact big game species. The surrounding area is heavily disturbed with existing oil & gas activities.	Brandon McDonald	12/11/13
PI	Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate	Though habitat for greater sage-grouse is considered of poor quality (lack of <i>Artemisia</i> spp's and surrounding area heavily disturbed with existing oil & gas activities) the BLM has designated the project area as being within greater sage-grouse PPH. The proposed project will conform with WO IM 2012-043.	Brandon McDonald	12/11/13
NP	Woodlands/Forestry	The proposed project is not in a Woodland/Forestry area per Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS layers database.	Margo Roberts	11/07/2013

FINAL REVIEW:			
Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator		1/23/14	
Authorized Officer		1/29/2014	

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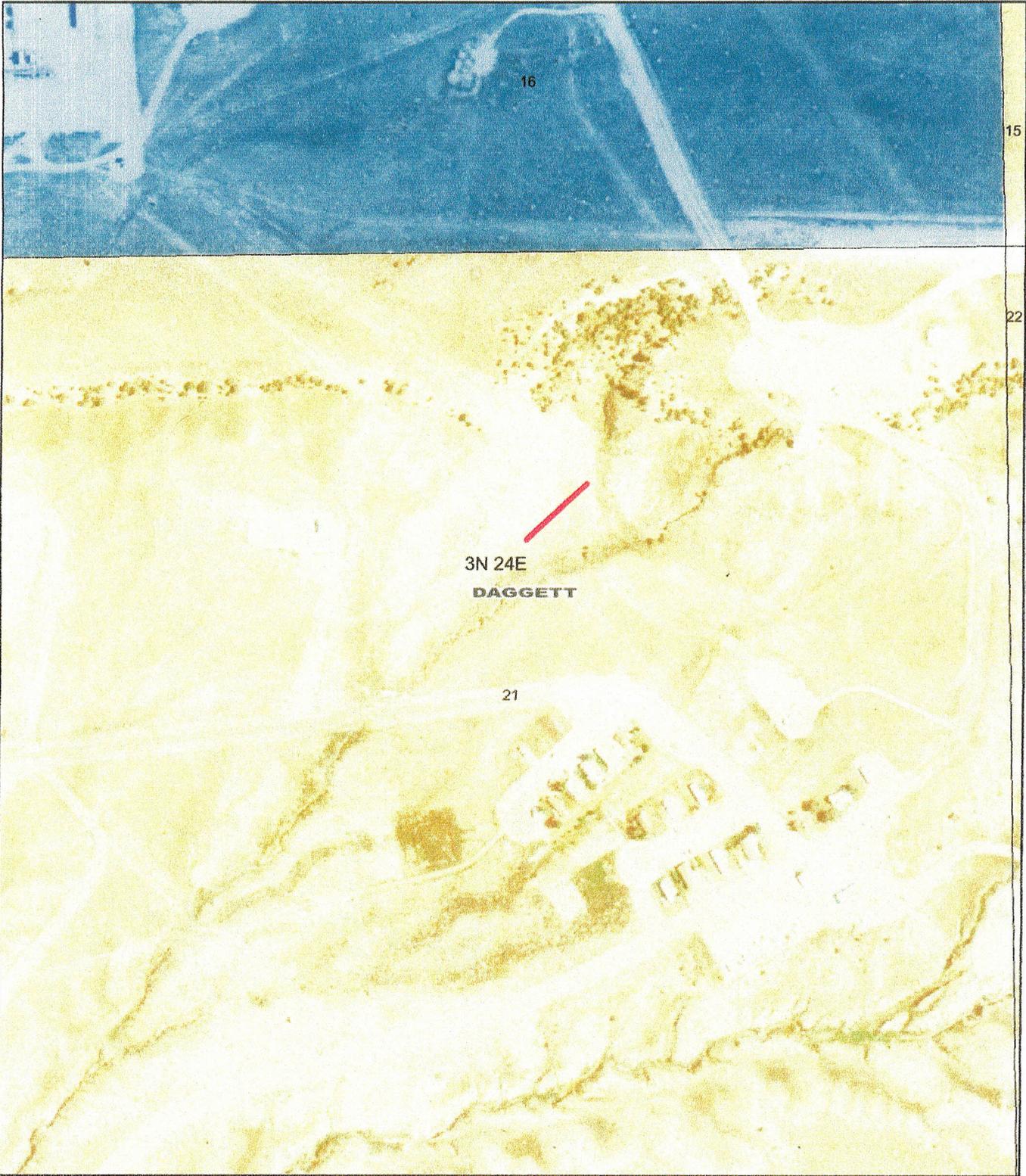


EXHIBIT "A", January 10, 2014

— Right-of-Way UTU-90019

T. 3 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 21, NE1/4NE1/4

No warranty is made by the BLM for use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.



**QEP FIELD SERVICES (QEPFS)
PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT**

UTU-90019

CLAY BASIN 46 LOOP SURFACE LATERAL

I. Description of the Facility: (e.g., road, pipeline, utility line, etc.)

A 6" steel surface pipeline will run natural gas from Clay Basin 7 Lateral 46 to Clay Basin 15 Lateral 270A and will parallel existing Clay Basin 13 Lateral 273.

It will begin in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sections 21 in Township 3 North, Range 24 East, and end in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21 in Township 3 North, Range 24 East, Daggett County, Utah. The gas will flow easterly and will tie into the Clay Basin 15 Lateral ~~273~~ 270A

1-9-14
Bar Phone
COW/Well
pas

The 6" pipeline will be a high pressure surface 6.625" O.D. pipeline, 0.280" wall thickness, Grade B pipeline. The pipeline **footage total on BLM land is 213'**. The MAOP for the line is 1000 psig.

QEPFS is proposing a 30' permanent ROW comprising of approximately .147 acres. No additional temporary construction area will be needed. The pipeline will operate year round and the right-of-way is requested for a term of 30 years.

Pipeline construction will commence upon completion and approval of all permits and right-of-way documents. QEPFS plans to lay this pipeline in the fall months of 2013 and will take approximately 1 week.

The pipeline will be pigged to remove excess dirt debris and then purged hydrostatically.

All permanent, above-ground facilities, valving and metering, not subject to safety requirements, will be painted a flat non-contrasting color which simulates "standard environmental colors" designated by the Visual Resource Management Best Practice.

II. Facility Purpose and Need

The proposed pipeline will allow for the transport of natural gas from to Clay Basin 7 Lateral 46 to Clay Basin 15 Lateral 270A.

III. Ancillary Right-Of-Way and Permits

Access into the proposed pipeline project will be from existing highways and roads. All construction and vehicular traffic will be confined to the right-of-way corridor or designated county and/or BLM roads unless otherwise authorized and approved by the regulating agency or landowner. No new access roads will be required for the construction of the project. Approvals will be obtained from the BLM for the use of existing roads during construction. Authorized roads will be rehabilitated to preconstruction conditions after construction activities are complete, unless otherwise specified by regulating agency or landowner.

Exhibit "B"
Plan of Development +

Any associated building, zoning, and utility crossing permits will be secured from the appropriate regulatory agency prior to pipeline construction.

IV. Engineering Surveys

All alignment maps, site specific details, and design drawings associated with the above-mentioned project are available for review at QEP Field Services' Vernal office located at 418 East Main Street upon request.

QEP Field Services Company will protect all survey monuments, witness corners, reference monuments, and bearing trees within the right-of-way against disturbance during construction, operations, maintenance, and rehabilitation. If any monument, corner or accessory is destroyed, obliterated, or damaged during construction, operation, or maintenance, QEP Field Services Company will have a registered surveyor restore the disturbed monument, corner or accessory using surveying procedures found in the "Manual of Surveying Instruction for the Survey of Public Lands of the United States" 1973 edition. QEP Field Services Company will record such survey in the appropriate county and send a copy to the appropriate BLM office.

V. Design

A. Design and Engineering:

The design and engineering will be completed by QEP Field Service Company personnel.

B. Inspection:

QEP Field Services Company will be employing experienced and qualified pipeline inspectors to monitor and insure the quality of the pipeline installation. If a status report is required for the authorized officer, it will be available upon request. QEP Field Services Company will also be using a pipeline contractor with experienced personnel and specialized equipment making this project as cost effective and as non intrusive as possible.

C. Pipeline Specifications:

1. A 30' wide construction phase right-of-way will be necessary
2. Design Codes
 - a. Pipeline is designed in accordance with ASME B31.8
 - b. Pipe purchased will be PSL2 pipe manufactured in accordance to API 5L—"Specification for Line Pipe"
3. Mainline Pipe Specifications (depending on location):
 - a. 6.625"O.D., 0.280" wall, Grade B
4. Road crossing pipe (unimproved public roads and/or roads, highways, or public streets with hard surfaces):
 - a. **NON**-cased crossings

- b. 6.625" O.D., 0.280" wall, Grade B
- 5. Pipe will have a minimum of 14-16 mls Fusion Bond Epoxy (FBE) coating
- 6. Above-ground facilities (risers, valves, pig receivers and launchers, etc)
 - a. Tie-in valves and blow downs will be installed at the tie-ins to the existing lines

D. Flood Plain Specifications:

No applicable

E. Archaeological Specifications:

An independent arch study has been completed by Aros Archaeology. The recommendations and determinations in attached report dated June 26, 2013 is:

The cultural resource inventory for QEPFS' proposed Clay Basin 46' Jumper gathering line resulted in the location of no cultural resources. Based on adherence to this recommendation, a determination of "no adverse effect" is proposed for the undertaking pursuant to Section 106, CFR 800.

A copy of the report will be attached to the Form 299 and Plan of Development. QEPFS will comply with all recommendations.

F. Wildlife Specifications:

A Bio (T&E) survey was completed by Outlaw Engineering, Inc. The recommendations and determinations dated June 26, 2013 are listed in the attached report.

G. Road Specifications:

Not applicable

H. Power Line Specifications:

Not applicable

I. Communication Site Specifications: (pertain to non-linear sites)

Not applicable

J. Fencing

Not applicable

VI. Construction of the R/W Facility:

A. Flagging and Staking the ROW:

Centerline and exterior staking will be used along the pipeline route as stated in 43CFR.

B. Clearing/Grading of ROW and Construction Procedures:

Proposed pipeline is a 6" surface line there will not be any clearing or grading

- a) Contractor will utilize industry available mechanical equipment necessary for safe pipeline construction activities
- b) Approximately 6 joints of will be placed on a pipe skid
- c) A contract welder will weld two 42' joints together at a time
- d) After welding of joints the joints will be placed adjacent to access road to the well location by either a track hoe or back hoe or if necessary a boom truck
- e) All welding will be conducted in compliance with the American Petroleum Institute (API) Standards 1104, "Welding of Pipelines and Related Facilities."

Equipment proposed on the pipeline project is as follows:

- i. Welding Trucks
- ii. Two-Ton Trucks
- iii. Pickup Trucks
- iv. Backhoes and/or Trackhoes
- v. Side Boom

C. Earthwork:

Not applicable

D. Structure Installation:

Not applicable

E. Stabilization, Rehabilitation, and Vegetation:

No ground disturbing activities are anticipated during construction or operation of the said 6" surface gathering line.

VII. Operation and Maintenance of the Facility:

Some operational opening and closing of valves and blowing down of laterals will be needed. Annual leak surveys, valve greasing and inspections will be performed in the spring/summer/fall months.

QEPFS will work with the BLM to remediate any problems that might arise from the construction of this new pipeline.

VIII. Termination and Abandonment:

QEPFS does not foresee any reason to terminate or abandon this pipeline before its term would expire. We have proven our ability to terminate and reclaim our pipelines and ROW in the past and will be able to do so in this case also.

IX. Miscellaneous Information Needs:

A. Waste Disposal

1. All trash will be kept cleaned up and hauled off premises.
2. Portable toilets will be furnished by contractors as needed for employees.

B. Traffic Control Plan:

Not applicable in this remote area

C. Safety Plan for Employees, Contractors, and General Public:

QEPFS' Employee Safety Plan will be adhered to by all associated with this project (Available on line at the Red Wash Office).

D. Fire Prevention Plan:

QEPFS' Fire Prevention Plans will be adhered to by all associated with this project. (Available upon request)

If construction would take place during fire season QEPFS would utilize precautionary measures if necessary to eliminate any fires.

E. Spill Prevention Plan:

QEPFS' Spill Prevention Plans will be adhered to by all associated with this project. (Available upon request)

F. Temporary Use Permit: (TUP)

50x50 will be needed to install a tie in valve