

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

Categorical Exclusion

**DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0117-CX
Questar Pipeline Company Temporary Use Permit
UTU-69134-01**

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
170 South 500 East
Vernal, Utah 84078
435-781-4400
435-781-4410



Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0117-CX
Questar Pipeline Company Temporary Use Permit
UTU-69134-01

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

This page intentionally
left blank

Table of Contents

1. Categorical Exclusion 1

2. Categorical Exclusion Rationale 5

This page intentionally
left blank

Chapter 1. Categorical Exclusion

This page intentionally
left blank

A. Background

BLM Office:

LLUTG01110

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: UTU-69134-01

Proposed Action Title/Type: Questar Pipeline Company Temporary Use Permit

Location of Proposed Action: T. 4 S., R. 23 E., Sections 7, 18, 19, 20, and 29.

Description of Proposed Action: Questar Pipeline Company's (Questar) ML 80 installed under Right-of-Way grant UTU-69134 has experienced erosion and washouts on its pipeline. There are currently 6 locations that have been identified and are shown on the attached map in T. 4 S., R. 23 E., SLM, Utah. The proposed repairs are considered regular maintenance to protect the pipeline and will consist of installing Submar Mat Armoring pads that are 8 feet wide, 20 feet long and 4½ inches deep as depicted on the enclosed brochure and shown on the drawing for each location.

Questar is requesting a temporary use permit for the required Extra Work Space to make the necessary repairs.

The required Extra Work Space for each location is shown as follows:

Site Number	GPS Locations	Legal Description	Extra Work Space Needed.
		T. 4 S., R. 23 E.,	
1	-109.370902, 40.481236	Sec. 7, S2SE.	All work will be within the existing 50 foot ROW width
2	-109.37005, 40.47345	Sec. 18, SENE.	65 foot X 135 foot, 0.20 acres
3	-109.36622, 40.45779	Sec. 19, SENE, NESE.	20 foot X 50 foot, 0.02 acres
4	-109.36265, 40.45366	Sec. 20, SESW.	25 foot X 50 foot, 0.03 acres
5	-109.35893, 40.44852	Sec. 29, NENW.	15 foot X 25 foot, 0.009 acres
6	-109.35622, 40.44491	Sec. 29, SWNE.	15 foot X 25 foot, 0.009 acres
			Total acres 0.268

Questar proposes to begin work as soon as they receive approval and would take approximately 4 weeks to complete the project but want the expiration date of the TUP to extend to November 30, 2014. No work would occur after November 30, 2014. Questar agrees to implement Utah Division of Wildlife's recommended 4:1 mitigation if any sage brush habitat is disturbed.

The project would be reseeded, when clean-up is finished, by broadcasting a seed mix that is approved by the BLM Vernal Field Office, or one that was used to reseed the original right-of-way. Seeding would be evaluated in accordance with the Green River District Reclamation Guidelines.

The equipment and crew would consist of one Track Hoe, one Front End Loader, with two operators, one foreman, two laborers, three pickups, four trucks hauling rip-rap and one truck hauling the Submar mats. All parking would be on the existing right of way for this project and access would be limited to the right of way from established access points.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: ROD approved in 2008

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions) : The proposed action is in conformance with the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 2008). The RMP/ROD decision allows the processing of applications, permits, operating plans, mineral exchanges, leases, and other use authorizations for public lands in accordance with policy and guidance (RMP/ROD , p. 86). It has been determined that the proposed action would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 I which is: Emergency Stabilization; Planned actions in response to wildfires, floods, weather events, earthquakes, or landslips that threaten public health or safety. Property, and/or natural and cultural resources, and that are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition as a result of the event. Such activities shall be limited to: repair and installation of essential erosion control structures; replacement or repair if existing culverts, roads, trails fences and minor facilities; construction of protection fences; planting, seeding and mulching; and removal of hazard trees, rocks, soil and other mobile debris from, on, or along roads, trails, campgrounds, and water courses. These activities:

- a. Shall be completed within one year following the event;
- b. Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides;
- c. Shall not include the construction of new roads or other new permanent infrastructure;
- d. Shall not exceed 4,200 acres; and
- e. May include temporary roads which are defined as roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation not intended to be part of the BLM transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management. Temporary roads shall be designed to standards appropriate for the intended uses, considering safety, cost of transportation, and impacts on land and resources; and
- f. Shall require the treatment of temporary roads constructed or used so as to permit the reestablishment by artificial or natural means, of vegetative cover on the roadway and areas where the vegetative cover was disturbed by the construction or use of the road, as necessary to minimize erosion from the disturbed area. Such treatment shall be designed to reestablish vegetative cover as soon as practicable, but at least within 10 years after the termination of the contract.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

I considered the proposed action and the extraordinary circumstances as documented in the attached worksheet. The proposed action with its incorporated mitigation for sage grouse, does not have any potential for significant impacts due to the soil stabilizing nature of the project and the project's small size.

D. Approval and Contact Information


Jerry Kenczka
Assistant Field Manager

APR 18 2014
Date

Contact Person

Cindy Bowen
Vernal Field Office
170 South 500 East
Vernal, Utah 84078
435-781-4400

This page intentionally
left blank

Chapter 2. Categorical Exclusion Rationale

This page intentionally
left blank

CX Number:	Questar Pipeline Company Temporary Use Permit DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0117-CX
Date:	April 1, 2014
Lease/Case File/ Serial Number:	UTU-61934-01
Regulatory Authority (CFR or Law):	Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended. 43 CFR 2880

Section 1.1 Impacts on Public Health and Safety

1. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on public health and safety?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Cindy Bowen, Realty Specialist

Rationale: Public health and safety would not be affected by this action. The proponent will abide by all safety procedures for proper use of their equipment as required by law.

Section 1.2 Impacts on Natural Resources or Unique Geographic Characteristics

2. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Kevin Sadlier, Natural Resource Specialist
	X	Brandon McDonald, Wildlife Biologist

Rationale: There are no unique geographic characteristics; 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; or other ecologically significant or critical areas within the proposed project area per BLM GIS database layers, and onsite observations. No lands designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Study Areas, Monuments, or other areas of special designation are located within the proposed project area, and the proposed project would not impact any specially designated lands. Migratory birds are present in the project area; however, the proposed project is not expected to negatively impact migratory bird habitat, forage, or nesting areas.

Section 1.3 Level of Controversy

3. Does the proposed action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Kevin Sadlier, Natural Resource Specialist

Rationale: Similar projects to the proposed action have occurred in adjacent areas with similar resources present; the impacts of these projects are well-known and demonstrated to be minor in other projects that have been implemented and monitored.

Section 1.4 Highly Uncertain or Unique or Unknown Environmental Risks

4. Does the proposed action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Kevin Sadlier, Natural Resource Specialist

Rationale: The proposed project is similar to many other proposed projects near the project area. The consequences of the proposed action can generally be predicted based on the consequences of similar actions, and these consequences are well established as insignificant.

Section 1.5 Precedent Setting

5. Does the proposed action establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Cindy Bowen, Reality Specialist

Rationale: The proposed action is not connected to another action that would require further environmental analysis and would not set a precedent for future actions that would normally require environmental analysis.

Section 1.6 Cumulatively Significant Effects

6. Does the proposed action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Cindy Bowen, Reality Specialist

Rationale: The proposed project is not expected to have a direct relationship to other actions that will cumulatively have a significant environmental effect. Other actions in the project area that are directly related to the proposed action also have insignificant environmental impacts, and the combined impact of these projects and the proposed action is not expected to be significant.

Section 1.7 Impacts on Cultural Properties

7. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Erin Goslin, Archaeologist

Rationale: The proposed action has been covered by multiple archaeological surveys and will not impact any known archaeological sites by design plan.

Section 1.8 Impacts on Federally Listed Species or Critical Habitat

*Chapter 2 Categorical Exclusion Rationale
Section 1.4 Highly Uncertain or Unique or Unknown
Environmental Risks*

8. Does the proposed action 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?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Brandon McDonald, Wildlife biologist
	X	Maggie Marston, Botanist

Rationale: In accordance with an onsite visit and district files there are no known endangered or threatened species (including their associated habitats) within or near the proposed project area.

Section 1.9 Compliance With Laws

9. Does the proposed action violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Cindy Bowen, Reality Specialist

Rationale: The proposed action would not violate any county or state statutes. Formal Section 7 consultation with USFWS for Threatened and Endangered species was not required or requested for this project; the proposed project would not violate the Endangered Species Act. Onsite observations, BLM GIS, and air quality studies/modeling data have shown that the proposed project will not violate the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, or Migratory Bird Act.

Section 1.10 Environmental Justice

10. Does the proposed action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Cindy Bowen, Reality Specialist

Rationale: Low income or minority populations are not present in the project area. Low income or minority populations would not receive disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects from the proposed action. Health and environmental statutes would not be compromised by the proposed action.

Section 1.11 Indian Sacred Sites

11. Does the proposed action 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 (Executive Order 13007)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Erin Goslin, Archaeologist

Rationale: The proposed action has been covered by multiple archaeological surveys and the action will not limit access to the location for ceremonial use.

Section 1.12 Noxious and Non-Native Invasive Species

12. Does the proposed action 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 Executive Order 13112)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Kevin Sadlier, Natural Resource Specialist

Rationale: The operator would control noxious/invasive weeds adjacent to applicable facilities by the application of herbicides or by mechanical removal until reclamation is considered to be successful by the authorized officer (AO) and the bond for the well is released. A list of noxious weeds would be obtained from the BLM or the appropriate county extension office. On BLM-administered land, the operator would submit a Pesticide Use Proposal and obtain approval prior to the application of herbicides, other pesticides, or possible hazardous chemicals.

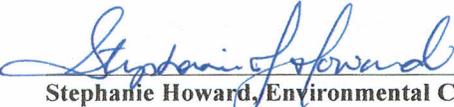
Section 1.2 Preparer Information



 Cindy Bowen, Realty Specialist

4-14-14

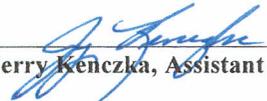
 DATE



 Stephanie Howard, Environmental Coordinator

4/14/14

 DATE



 Jerry Kenczka, Assistant Field Manager

APR 18 2014

 DATE