

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641

SECTION 390 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

Produced Fluids Line – Piceance Creek Unit 297-13A
DOI-BLM-CO-N050-2015-0016-CX

Identifying Information

Project Title: Produced Fluids line – Piceance Creek Unit 297-13A

Legal Description: T2S, R97W, NWNE and NENW Section 13

Applicant: XTO Energy

Casefile/Project Number: Lease COD052141, Piceance Creek Unit COC-47666X

Conformance with the Land Use Plan

The Proposed Action is subject to and is in conformance (43 CFR 1610.5) with the following land use plan:

Land Use Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP)

Date Approved: July 1997

Decision Language: “Make Federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values.” (page 2-5)

“To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values.” (page 2-49)

Proposed Action

Project Components and General Schedule

Maps – see Appendix A (Map 1-6) for maps of the proposed project.

A disturbance is proposed on BLM surface.

The applicant proposes to install the line upon approval by the BLM.

A 1,400-foot length by 50-foot width four-inch American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 600 FlexSteel line would be installed (buried five feet deep) adjacent to the existing Produced Water Distribution Disposal (PWDD) line with the purpose of transporting produced fluids from the PCU 297-13A wells into XTO's existing combined liquids line (Right-of-Way (ROW) COC74914). Acreage disturbance would be approximately 1.60 acres (see Maps 1 – 6 below). The line would not cross any unit boundaries and would only transport on-unit combined liquids. All excavation associated would take place within the pre-disturbed ROW area. As able, XTO would use the adjacent roadway to minimize the disturbance to 35 feet in width. Installation would commence after Severe Winter Range timing restrictions. The line would not cross any unit boundaries and would only transport on-unit combined liquids. All excavation associated would take place within pre-disturbed ROW. Pipeline abandonment would be done according to BLM Gold Book standards. A detailed reclamation plan is included with the proposal and will be on file at the BLM WRFO.

Line installation is associated with the following wells:

- PCU 297-13A2
- PCU 297-13A4
- PCU 297-13A5
- PCU 297-13A7
- PCU 297-13A8
- PCU 297-13A9

A 950-foot long by 50-foot wide ROW in the same pipeline corridor was approved for the PCU 297-13A wellpad in CO-110-2006-206-EA approved on October 6, 2006. A map showing the pipeline route from the APD package is included below in Map 6.

BLM Required Conditions of Approval to Mitigate Impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
5. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

Categorical Exclusion Review

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) prescribed five categorical exclusions (CX) for activities whose purpose is for the exploration of oil or gas.

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act, #1: *“Individual surface disturbances of less than five acres so long as the total surface disturbance on the lease is not greater than 150 acres and site-specific analysis in a document prepared pursuant to the NEPA has been previously completed.”*

The BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) provides specific instructions for using this CX.

1. Is surface disturbance associated with the Proposed Action less than five acres?

Surface disturbance is proposed at 1.60 acres.

2. Is there less than 150 acres of surface disturbance, including the Proposed Action, on the entire leasehold?

2013 aerial photos shows surface disturbance including the Proposed Action for the entire lease (COD052141) to be approximately 79.50 acres.

- Is the Proposed Action within the boundaries of an area included in a site-specific NEPA document? (The NEPA document must have analyzed the exploration and/or development of oil and gas (not just leasing) and the action/activity being considered must be within the boundaries of the area analyzed in the environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The NEPA document need not have addressed the specific permit or application being considered.)

The Proposed Action is in the area and ties into the wellpad for the PCU 297-13A wellpad approved in CO-110-2006-206-EA. The EA was signed on October 6, 2006.

Interdisciplinary Review

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 11/25/2014. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional review or remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	11/28/2014
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	12/4/2014
Heather Woodruff	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	12/1/2014
Jay Johnson	Natural Resource Specialist	Project Lead	01/27/2015
Joseph David	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance	2/2/2015

Cultural Resources: The new proposed pipeline is located in an area generally covered by all or parts of three Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level inventories (Brogan and Metcalf 2005 compliance dated, 12/9/2005, Brogan 2006 compliance dated 3/13/2006, Elkins 2007 compliance dated 12/3/2009). These inventories have not identified any cultural resources within 1000 feet (305 meters) of the Proposed Action. There should not be any new impacts to cultural resources as a result of pipeline construction.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute Tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken. No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute Tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Paleontological Resource Concerns: The proposed liquids pipeline is located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979), which the BLM has categorized as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation indicating it is known to produce

scientifically noteworthy fossil Resources (c. Armstrong and Wolny 1989). During construction of the 297-13 wellpad a fossil locality with excellent preservation of fossils was recorded (Bilbey and Hall 2007 compliance dated 5/21/2007). It is likely that excavation into the underlying sedimentary rock will expose additional well preserved fossil specimens. Some contextual and environmental data may be lost, but a monitor is likely to be able to recover additional fossil specimens for scientific study. The loss of some scientific data from the regional database likely cannot be avoided and will represent an additional 1.6 acres of impacts to the already disturbed acreage in the Uinta Formation.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no animals listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act, nor animals considered sensitive by the BLM, that are known to inhabit or derive important benefit from the areas potentially influenced by the Proposed Action. The pipeline would be installed immediately adjacent to primary well field access that supports frequent year-round use.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There were no special status plant concerns in the original EA (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2006-206-EA) and the same analysis is sufficient for this Action. Therefore, there are no SSPS concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

References Cited:

Armstrong, Harley J., and David G. Wolny

1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Bilbey, Sue Ann and Evan Hall

2007 Paleontological Final Monitoring Report: Exxon Mobil Corporation Piceance Creek Unit 297-13A (1-9), Section 13, Township 2 South, Range 97 West, Bureau of Land Management, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. (04-115-06: OAHP # RB.LM.R1018)

Brogan, John

2006 Exxon-Mobil Corporation's Proposed Piceance Tight Gas Project (Phase I) Class III Cultural Resource Inventory in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado. (06-54-02: OAHP #RB.LM.R1120)

Brogan, John M., and Sally J. Metcalf

2005 Exxon-Mobil Corporation's Nine Proposed Gas Well locations and a proposed Water Line, Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado. (05-54-15: OAHP # RB.LM.R1044)

Elkins, Melissa

2007 ExxonMobil Corporation's PCU 297-13A pw PIPELINE: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado. (09-54-42: OAHP #RB.LM.NR1869)

Mitigation

1. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary rock must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.

Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted

Colorado SHPO 1/13/2006, 5/21/2007, 3/13/2006, 12/3/2009

Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy of 2005.

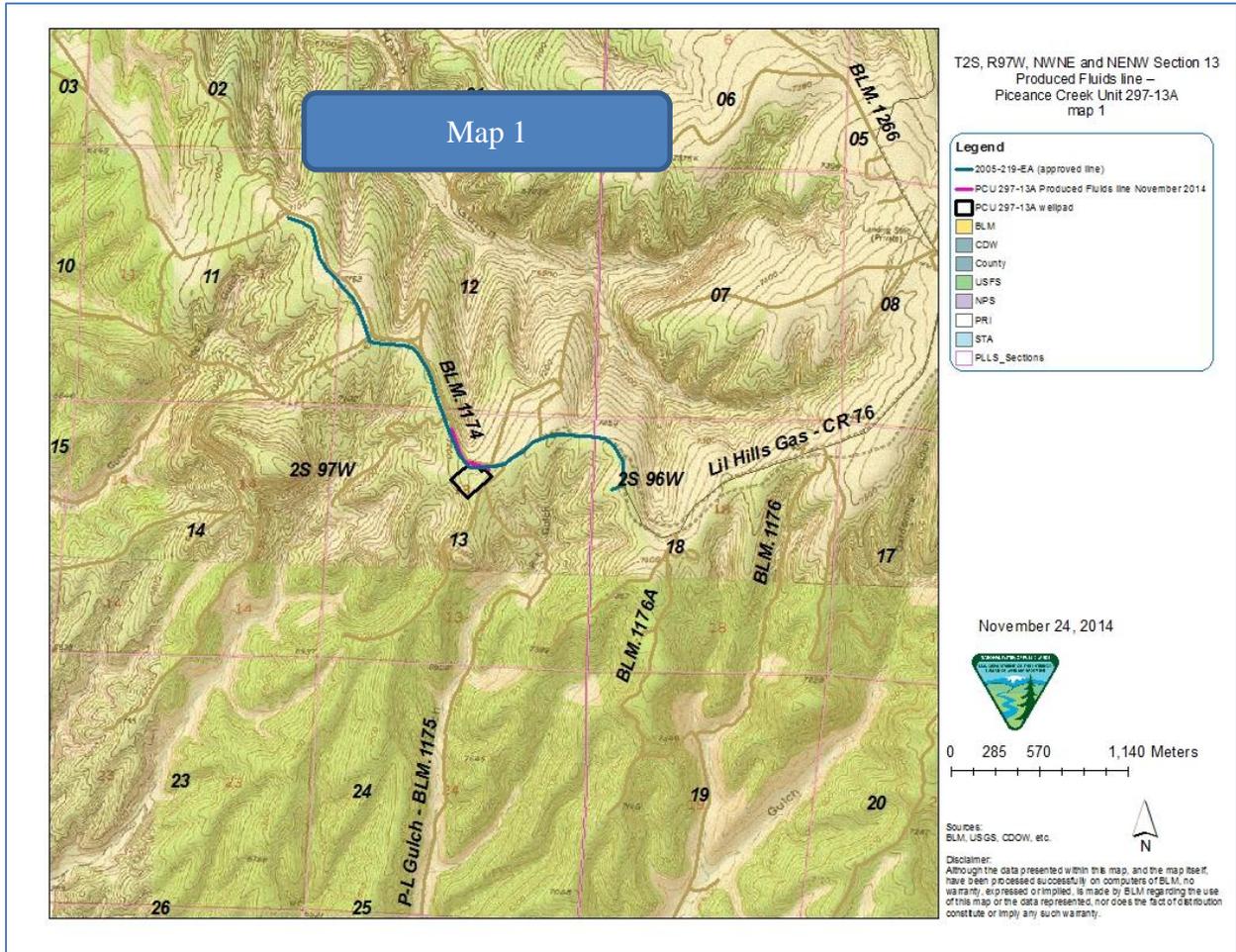
Hunt T. Walter

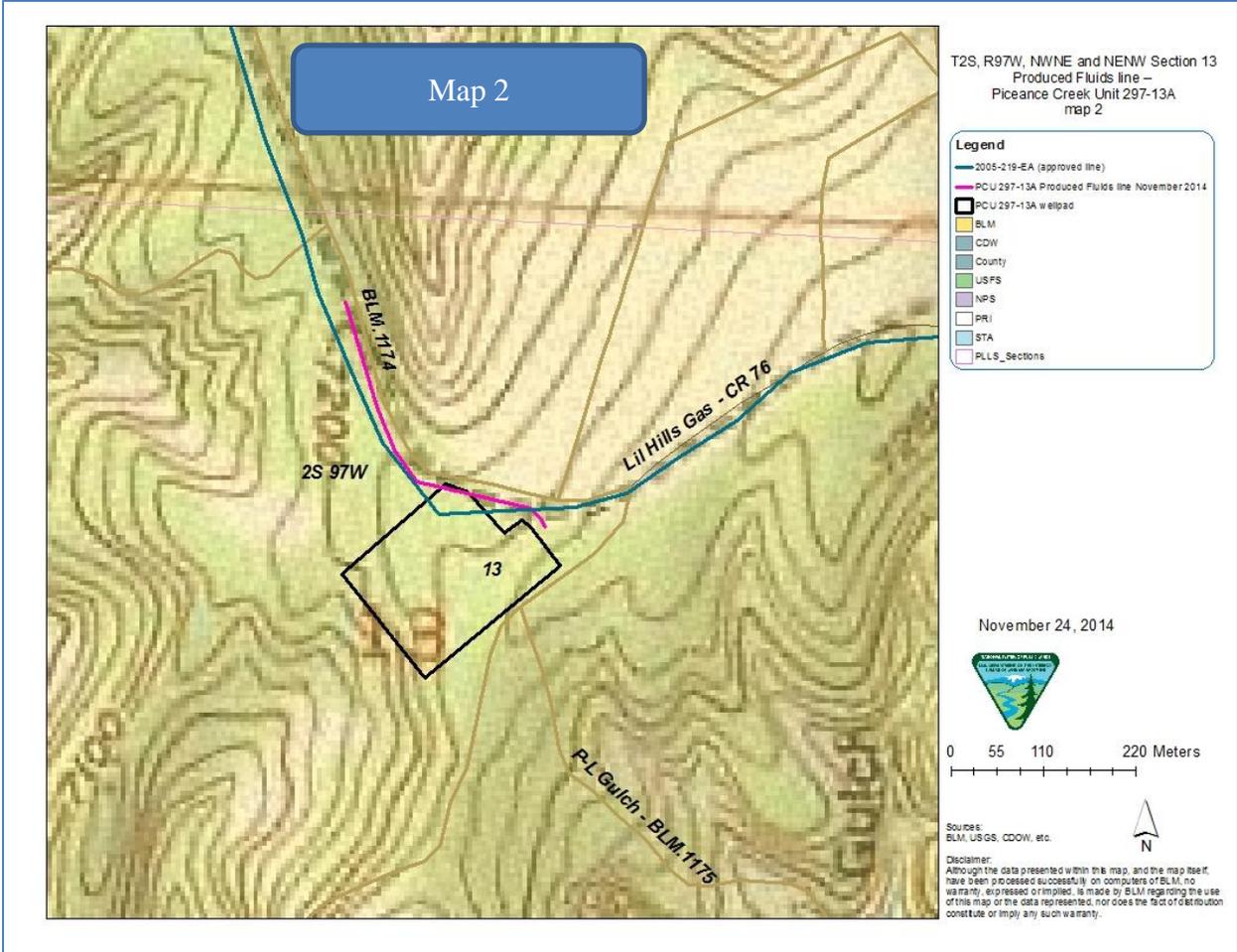
Field Manager

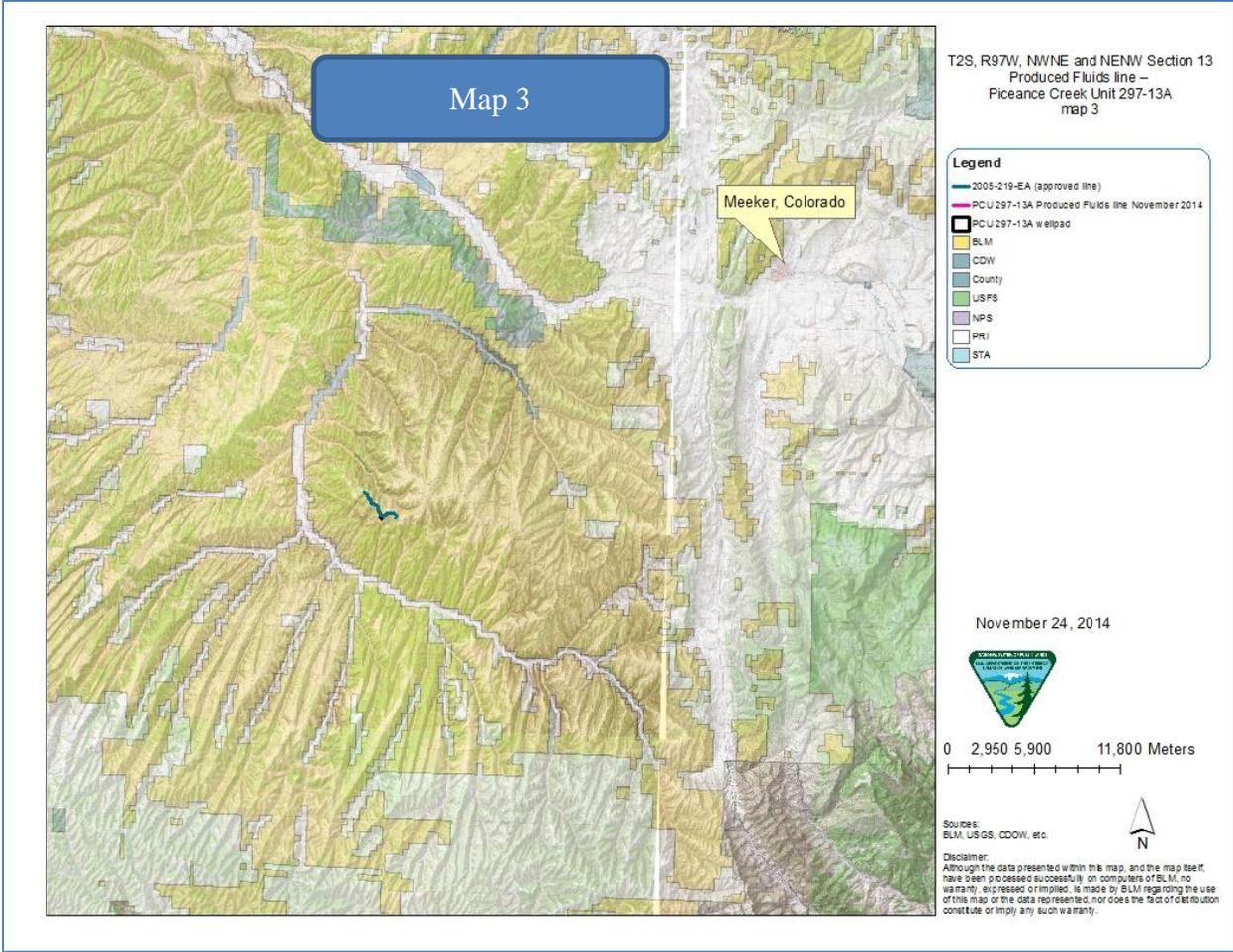
02/10/2015

Date

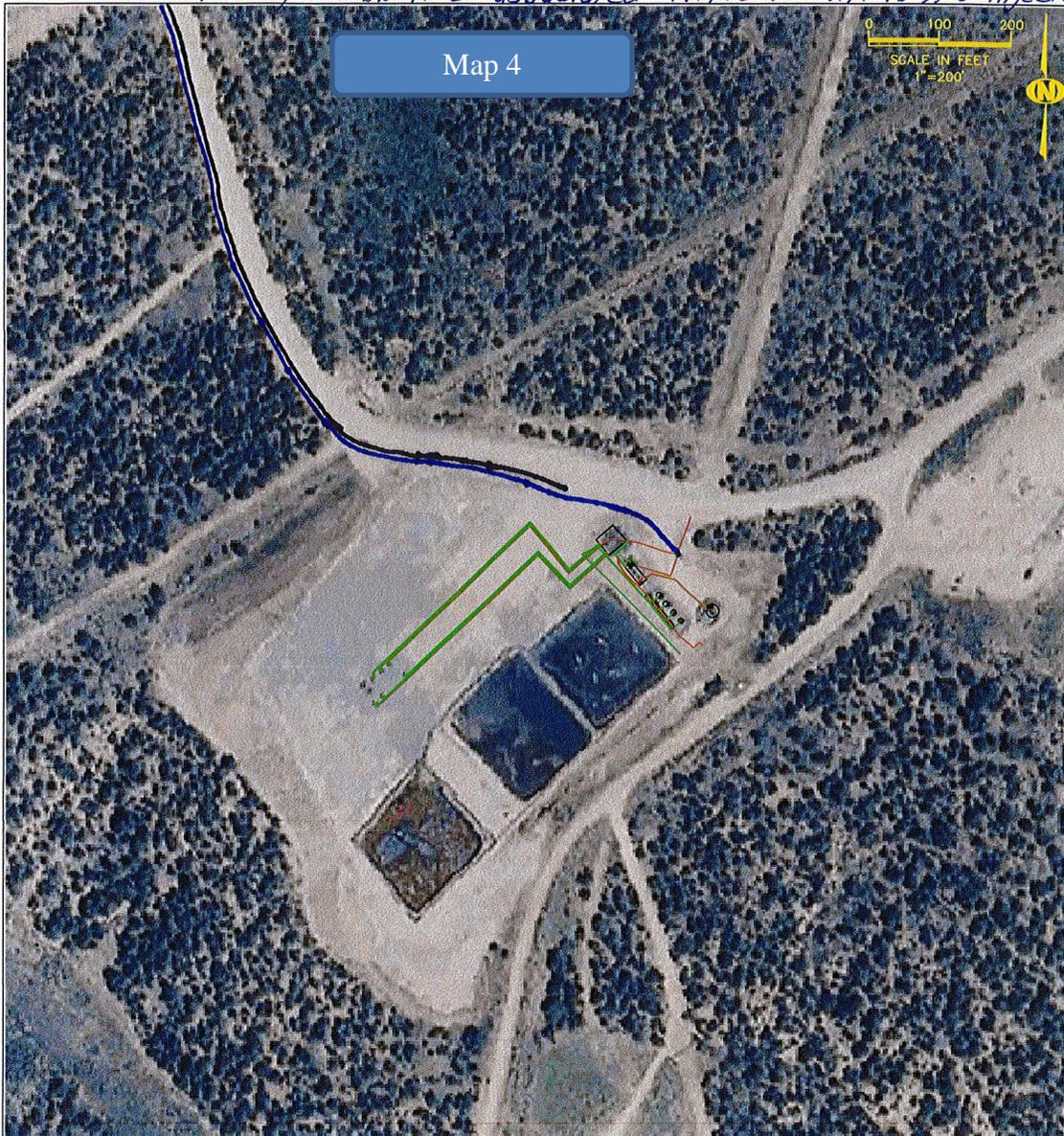
Appendix A. Figures







Proposed 4" ANSI 600 FlexSteel Combined liquid line 1400'
 Existing PWD line associated with PCU 297-13 A6 injection well



The underground utilities identified were field located and subsequently mapped (see as-built date) only to the accuracy of the underground locating equipment used. Other underground utilities may exist. The drawings provided should serve only as a reference. Prior to any excavation activity on or near this location, a "One-Call" and an area "Line Sweep" must be properly conducted.

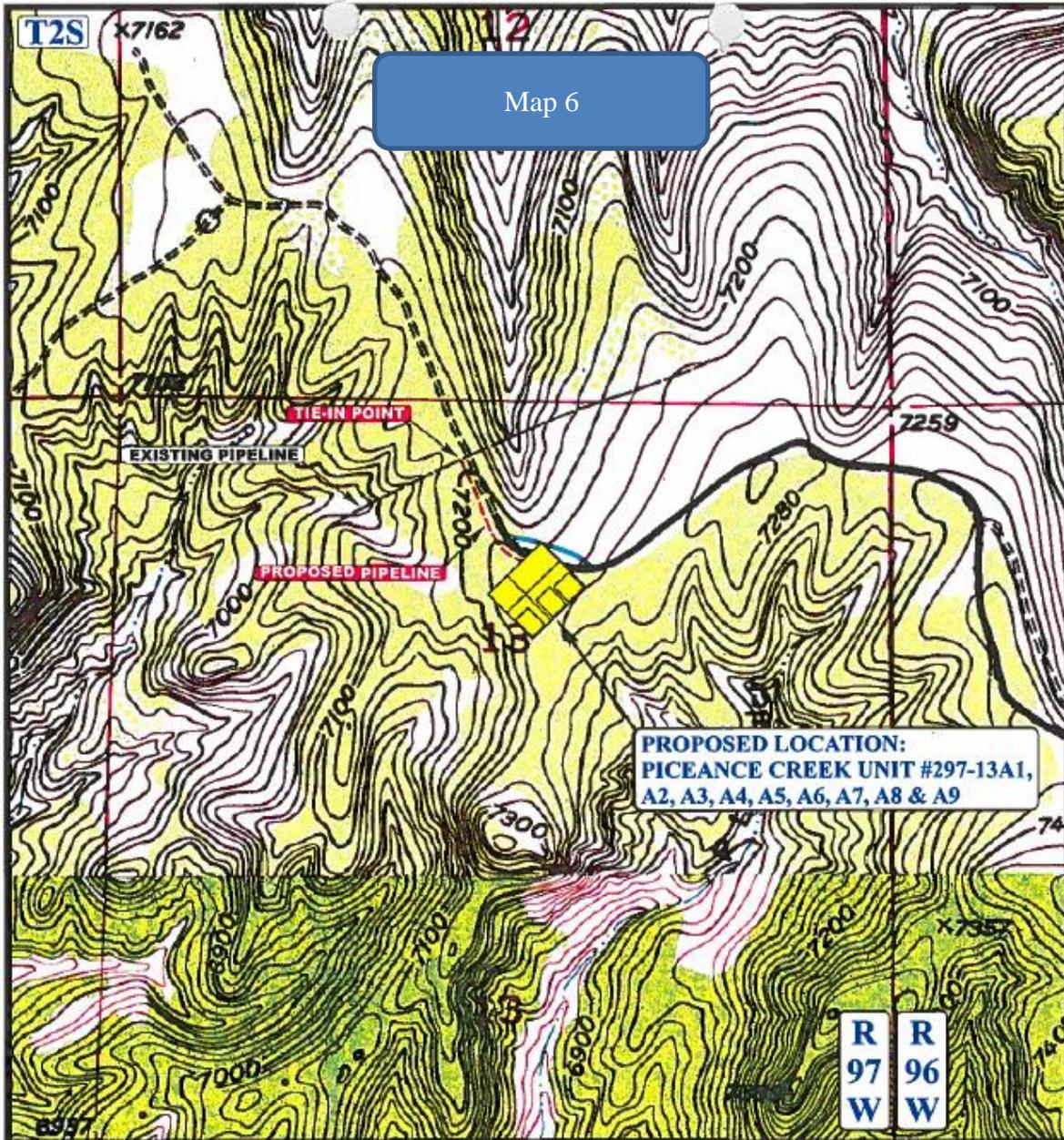
SURVEYED: JM/JR	CHECKED: PP	PLATE 1	NOTES: Aerial photo from USDA field office. Flown September 14, 2009	KRW CONSULTING, INC. 8000 W. 14TH AVENUE, SUITE 200 LAKEWOOD, COLORADO (303) 239-9011	PLATE 1 PICEANCE CREEK PCU 297-13A AS-BUILT 12/9/09
DATE: 12/31/09	DRAWN: DRF	SHEET NO. 1 of 5	DATE 1/11/10		
FILE NAME: PCU 297-13A	SCALE: 1"=200'	PROJECT NO. 0806-01			PREPARED FOR EXXON MOBIL

Map 5

UTM N Hemisphere 12 S 737167 x-est 4418218 y-no		dd.ddddd° Latitude: 39.88088 °N Longitude: -108.22657 °E		dd° mm.mmm' 39 ° 52.853 ' N 108 ° 13.594 ' W		dd° mm' ss.s" 39 ° 52' 51.2 " N 108 ° 13' 35.7 " W		POI / WPT / Waypoints *downloading 2 waypoints... "02-B "WP02-B" added 12 S 737167 4418218 39.88088°N -108.22657°E Elevation= 2210.4m "01-A "WP01-A" added 12 S 736906 4418471 39.88323°N -108.22952°E Elevation= 2194.7m **all waypoints removed... remove 02-B remove all WPTs download WPTs download Route Browse... upload WPTs upload Route
postal address or point of interest (poi) →		elev. in m 2210.4		WP02-B edit << < 02-B > >>				

Map data ©2014 Google Imagery ©2014, DigitalGlobe, USDA Farm Service Agency | 50 m | Terms of Use | Report a map error.

Map 6



APPROXIMATE TOTAL PIPELINE DISTANCE = 950' +/-

LEGEND:

- EXISTING PIPELINE
- - - PROPOSED PIPELINE
- PROPOSED ACCESS



ExxonMobil Oil Corporation

PICEANCE CREEK UNIT #297-13A1,
A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8 & A9
SECTION 13, T2S, R97W, 6th P.M.
SW 1/4 NE 1/4



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TOPOGRAPHIC
MAP

8 25 05
MONTH DAY YEAR

SCALE: 1" = 1000' DRAWN BY: J.L.G. REVISED: 2-10-06

