

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625-1129**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2015-0010-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC076896 thru COC076909

PROJECT NAME: QEPM Gathering I, LLC Authorization of 14 Existing Pipelines

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Moffat, County, CO.

1. Carl Allen Well #22, COC076896, T. 12 N., R. 97 W., sec. 28, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
2. Carl Allen Well #23, COC076897, T. 12 N., R. 97 W., sec. 33, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
3. F Wilson Well #32, COC076898, T. 12 N., R. 100 W., sec. 15, Lot 7.
4. F Wilson Well #33, COC076899, T. 12 N., R. 100 W., sec. 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
5. F Wilson Well #34, COC076900, T. 12 N., R. 100 W., sec. 15, Lot 7.
6. F Wilson Well #35, COC076901, T. 12 N., R. 100 W., sec. 15, Lot 7.
7. Hiawatha Deep Well #5, COC076902, T. 12 N., R. 100 W., sec. 15, Lot 7.
8. Hiawatha Deep Well #8, COC076903, T. 12 N., R. 100 W., sec. 21, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
9. Sugarloaf Gov. Well #4, COC076904, T. 12 N., R. 101 W., sec. 33, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
10. WB Lasher Well #7, COC076905, T. 12 N., R. 101 W., sec. 25, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
11. WB Lasher Well #8, COC076906, T. 12 N., R. 101 W., sec. 25, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
12. WB Lasher Well #10, COC076907, T. 12 N., R. 101 W., sec. 25, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
13. WB Lasher Well #11, COC076908, T. 12 N., R. 101 W., sec. 25, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
14. WB Lasher Well #12, COC076909, T. 12 N., R. 101 W., sec. 25, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

APPLICANT: QEPM Gathering I, LLC

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: QEPM Gathering I, LLC (QEPM) filed applications for Right-of-Way grants on existing buried natural gas pipelines originally permitted and constructed under Wexpro Company's APD's. The pipelines are currently owned by QEPM.

The 3.5 inch diameter pipelines are used to transport natural gas produced from existing wells located in the Powder Wash and Hiawatha Field areas. The pipelines were authorized and constructed under Wexpro Company APD's upon completion of the wells. The total disturbed area on public land is approximately 26.26 acres. QEPM requested a 30 foot wide right-of-way width for each pipeline. The reauthorization of any existing use pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 is subject to terms, conditions, and stipulations existing at the time of the reauthorization. There will be no new surface disturbance without prior approval from BLM.

LAND USE PLAN (LUP) CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action was reviewed for conformance (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) with the following plan:

Name of Plan: Little Snake Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: October 2011

Results: The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP goals, objectives, and management decisions:

Allow for appropriate ROW routes and development sites, while identifying areas that will not be compatible with such use. Objectives for achieving these goals include:

- Provide access for the development of roads and trails, utilities, transmission lines, communication sites, and other uses in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Provide access for the development of oil and gas pipeline routes and other uses associated with oil and gas development in an environmentally responsible manner.

Section/Page: Section 2.17 Lands and Realty/ page RMP-52

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR Part 46.210 and qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9E(16). 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 43 CFR Part 46.215 applies:

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

7. 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.	___ X ___
8. 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 ___
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	___ X ___
10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	___ X ___
11. 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).	___ X ___
12. 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).	___ X ___

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Title	Resource	Date
Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	2/9/2015
Rangeland Mgmt Spec	T&E Plants	1/26/2015
Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animals	2/3/2015

COMPLIANCE PLAN: The ROWs will be checked for compliance with terms, conditions and stipulations on a five-year schedule. Responsibility for the compliance schedule and monitoring plan will be assigned to the Realty staff in the Little Snake Field Office. The primary inspector will be the Realty Specialist.

NAME OF PREPARER: Louise McMinn

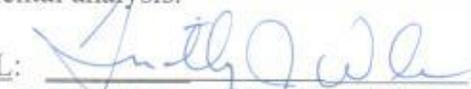
NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Kathy McKinstry

DATE: 2/9/15

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

This action is listed in the Department Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 11) as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:


Wendy Reynolds, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

2/19/15

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Louise McMinn, Realty Specialist, Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, CO 81625, Phone (970) 826-5070.

Attachments

Exhibit A – Stipulations

Exhibit B – Maps

Exhibit A - Stipulations

1. The holder shall construct, operate, and maintain the facilities, improvements, and structures within this right-of-way in strict conformity with the plan(s) of development which was (were) approved and made part of the original grants. Any relocation, additional construction, or use that is not in accord with the approved plan(s) of development, shall not be initiated without the prior written approval of the authorized officer. A copy of the complete right-of-way grants, including all stipulations and approved plan(s) of development, shall be made available on the right-of-way area during construction, operation, and termination. Noncompliance with the above will be grounds for an immediate temporary suspension of activities if it constitutes a threat to public health and safety or the environment.
2. Any proposal involving surface disturbance, such as replacement, maintenance, or expansion, requires an application to the BLM for analysis, and authorization. New stipulations for construction would be applied to projects subject to the regulations and policies in existence at the time of authorization.
3. The right-of-way shall terminate without further action or notice on the part of this Bureau if at any time subsequent to its effective date, the pipeline facilities authorized are no longer necessary for the holder to service an active oil and gas well.
4. Standard Stipulations to Protect Cultural Resources and Human Remains:
 - a. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization or its contractor must notify the Authorized Officer (AO), by telephone, with 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 holder must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
 - b. The operator or its contractor is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological remains are uncovered during any project or construction activity, the operator must stop work in the area of the discovery that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the AO. Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in place preservation is not necessary).
 - c. The holder shall notify the AO at least 180 days prior to non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance in the ROW. The BLM will determine if a cultural resource inventory, treatment, or mitigation is required.
 - d. A "Notice to Proceed" shall be required for any non-emergency activities as defined above that would cause surface disturbance on the ROW. Any request for a "Notice to Proceed" should be made to the AO, who shall review the proposed action for consistency with resource management concerns such as wildlife, big game winter range, paleontology, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resource protection. Additional measures may be required to protect these resources.
5. If any vertebrate paleontological resources are discovered during operations, all operations affecting such sites shall be immediately suspended and all discoveries shall be left intact until holder has

been authorized to proceed by the AO. The appropriate AO shall be notified within 48 hours of the discovery and a decision as to the preferred alternative or course of action will be rendered.

6. The grant does not relieve you of your responsibility to obtain other required federal, state, or local permits.

7. The holder(s) shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the holder(s) shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.

8. The holder of the Right-of-Way agrees to indemnify the United States against any liability arising from the release of any hazardous substance or hazardous waste (as these terms are defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq. or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. 6901, et. seq.) on the right-of-way (unless the release or threatened release is wholly unrelated to the right-of-way holder's activity on the right-of-way). This agreement applies without regard to whether a release is caused by the holder, its agent, or unrelated third parties.

9. No hazardous materials/waste or trash shall be disposed of on the public lands. If a release does occur, it shall be reported to the Little Snake Field Office immediately (970) 826-5000. Any spills will be cleaned up to applicable standards.

10. All maintenance activities will be contained within the 30-foot easement, vehicular access for reclamation, maintenance and emergencies is authorized, but the easement will not be used as a road after construction is completed.

11. Control of noxious weeds will be required through successful vegetation establishment and/or herbicide application. It is the responsibility of the lease operator to insure compliance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations, as well as labeling directions specific to the use of any given herbicide.

12. A Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) will be approved prior to application of herbicides and/or other pesticides on Federal surface; contact the Little Snake Field Office to obtain a PUP form to request this authorization. Submit the PUP two (2) months in advance of planned application. In the event you elect to apply herbicide or other pesticide as described and authorized on the approved PUP, you must report this use within 24 hours on Bureau of Land Management form titled Pesticide Application Record.

13. The holder shall seed all disturbed areas, using an agreed upon method suitable for the location. Seeding shall be repeated if a satisfactory stand is not obtained after the second growing season.

14. The holder is required to use the reclamation practices necessary to reclaim all disturbed areas. Reclamation will ensure surface and subsurface stability, growth of self-generating, permanent, vegetative cover and compatibility with post land use. The vegetation will be diverse and of the same seasonal

growth as adjoining vegetation. Post land use will be determined by the authorized officer but normally will be the same as adjoining uses.

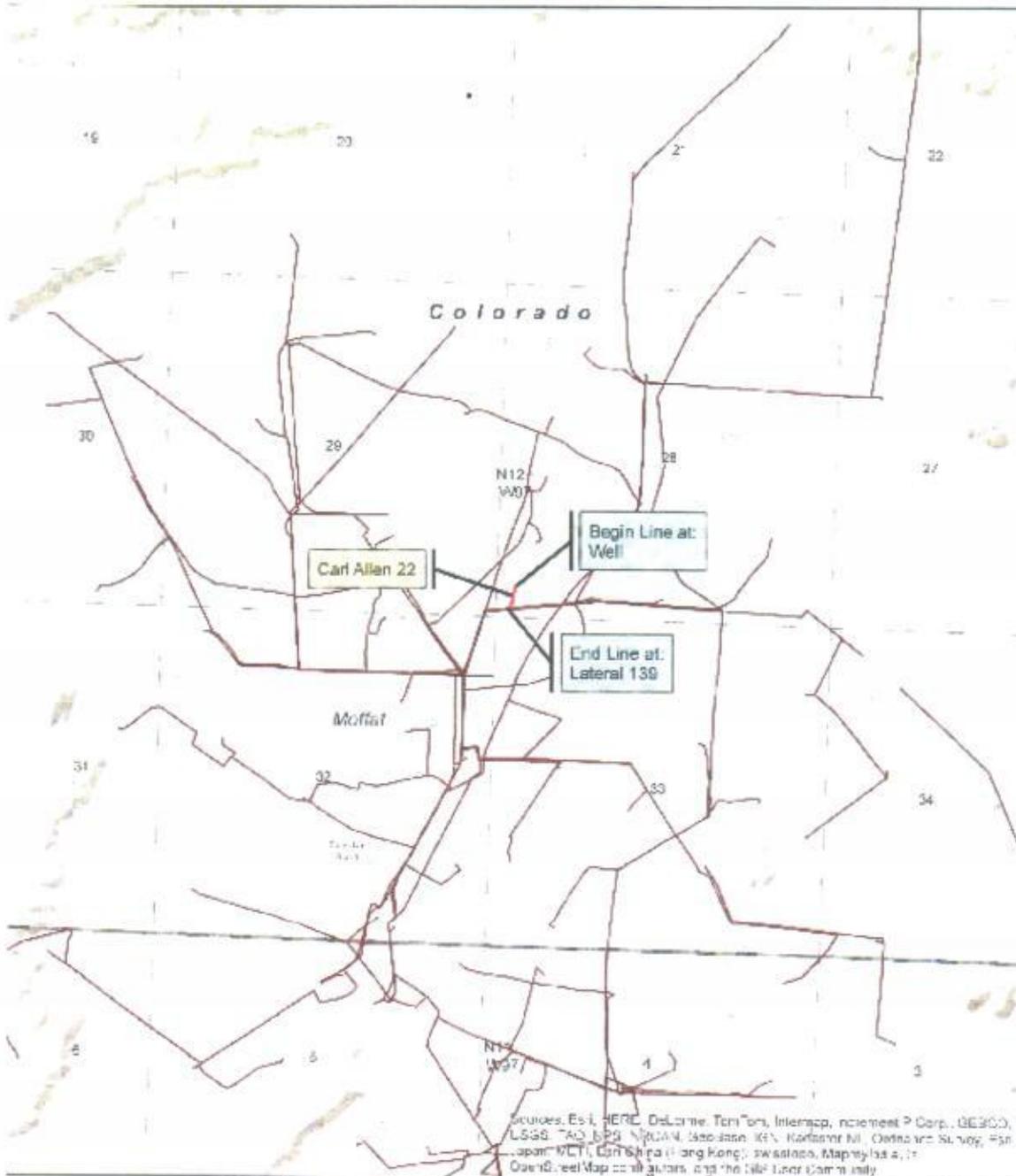
Final Reclamation Standard:

The original landform has been restored for all disturbed areas including, roads, pipelines, and utility corridors.

- A self-sustaining, vigorous, diverse, native (or otherwise approved) plant community is established on the site, with a density sufficient to control erosion and non-native plant invasion and can reestablish wildlife habitat or forage production. At a minimum, the established plant community will consist of species included in the seed mix and/or desirable species occurring in the surrounding natural vegetation. No single species will account for more than 30 percent total vegetative composition unless it is evident at higher levels in the adjacent landscape. Permanent vegetative cover will be determined successful when the basal cover of desirable perennial species is at least 80 percent of the basal cover of *the adjacent undisturbed area*. Plants must be resilient as evidenced by well-developed root systems and flowers. Shrubs must be well established and in a “young” age class at a minimum (therefore, not comprised mainly of seedlings that may not survive until the following year).
- In agricultural areas, irrigation systems and soil conditions are reestablished in such a way as to ensure successful cultivation and harvesting of crops.
- Erosion features are equal to or less than surrounding area and erosion control is sufficient so that water naturally infiltrates into the soil and gulying, headcutting, slumping, and deep or excessive rilling (greater than 3 inches) is not observed.
- The site is free of State- or county-listed noxious weeds, debris and equipment, and contaminated soil. The final inspection for final reclamation success and approval will be subject to an interdisciplinary review.

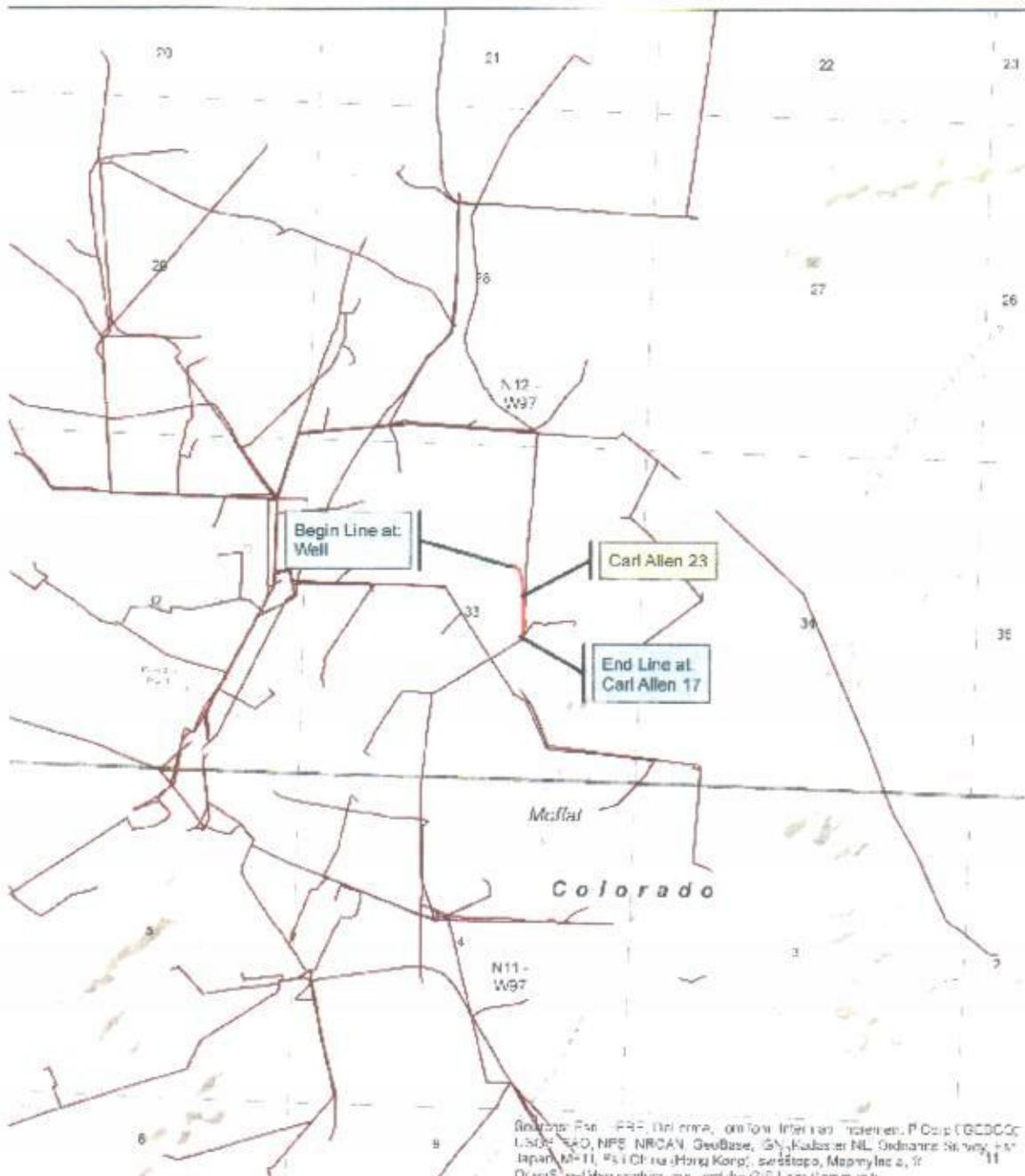
15. Prior to termination of the rights-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized officer to arrange a pretermination conference. This conference will be held to review the termination provisions of the grant.

Exhibit B



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, Swisstopo, Mapbox, IGN, Intermap, Inc., Swisstopo, Mapbox, Esri, Japan (METI), CNRS (China), Swisstopo, Mapbox, Esri, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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<p>1:24,000 1 inch = 2,000 feet</p>	<p>Date: 11/25/2014 Author: SAS</p>	<p>Reference:</p>



Boundary File: FRP, Deline, and Topographical Features. P. Corp. (GCDCC), U.S. Geol. Surv., NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, GSI, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, Esri, Swisstopo, Mapbox Inc., Swisstopo, Mapbox contributors, and the GIS User Community

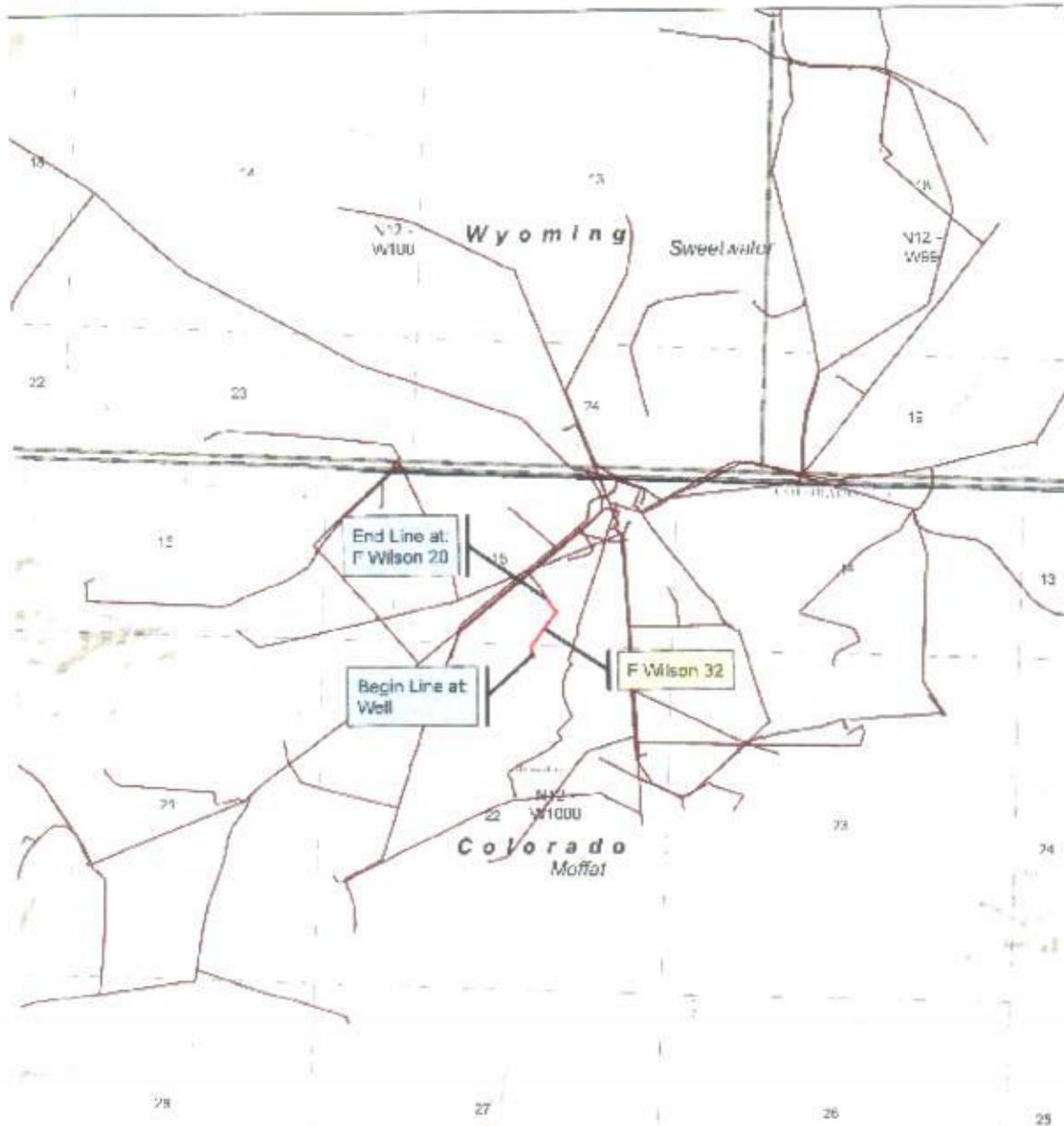
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Purpose: ACW 1241 foot +/-
 Pipeline Name: Carl Allen 23
 Location: Moffat County, Colorado
 Description: N12 - W97 Sec 33

1:24,100 1 inch = 2,000 feet Date: 11/25/2014 Author: SAS

References:



Source: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, JSCS, FAO, Swis, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kartchner N., Colorado Survey, Fm, Japan, MET, Air China, Hong Kong, SwisInfo, Mapbox, India, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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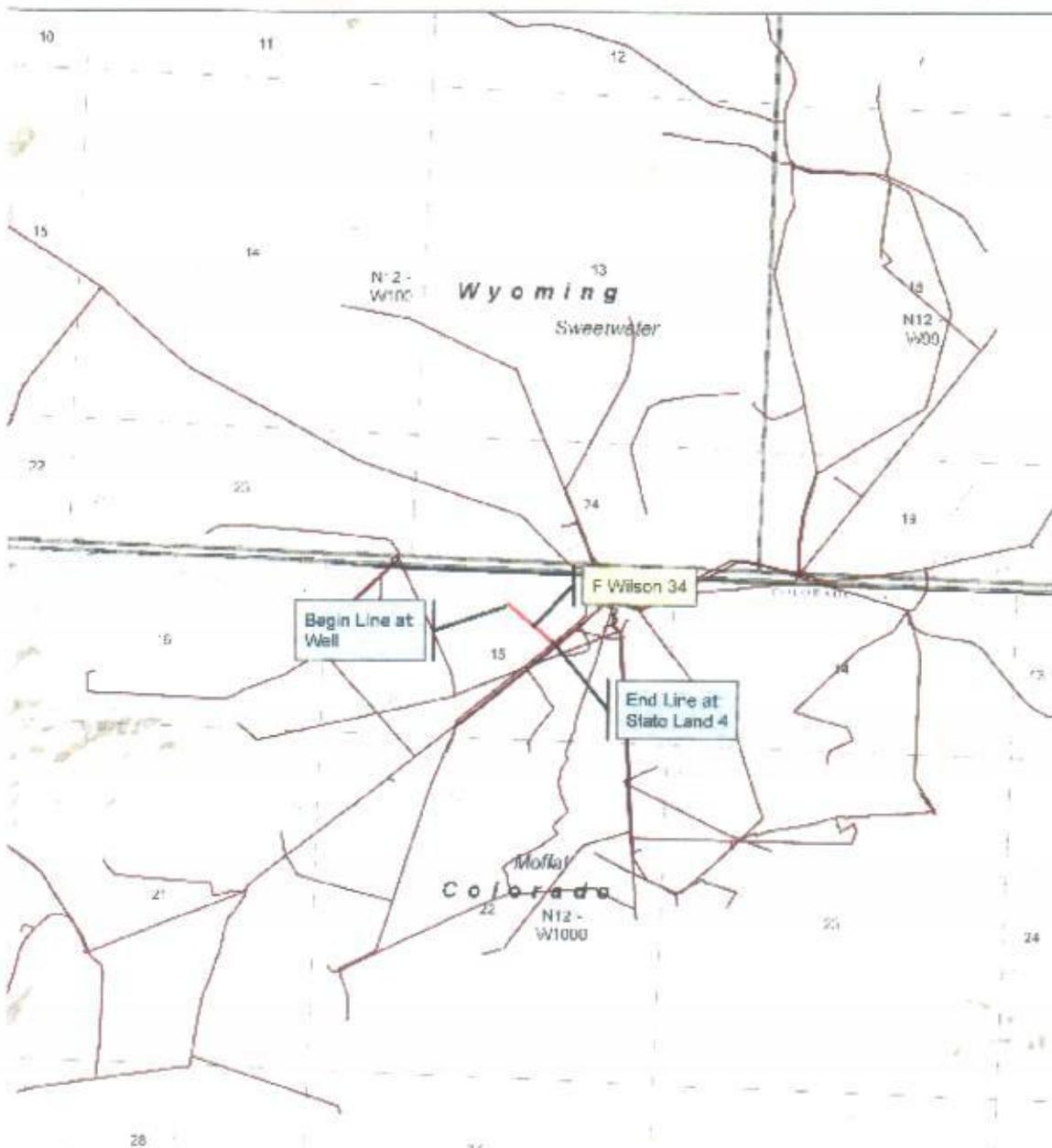
QEP Gathering I, LLC

Purpose: ROW 1024 West 1/2
 Pipeline Name: F Wilson 32
 Location: Moffat County, Colorado
 Description: N12 W100 Sec 22, 15

1:24,000 1 Inch = 2,000 feet

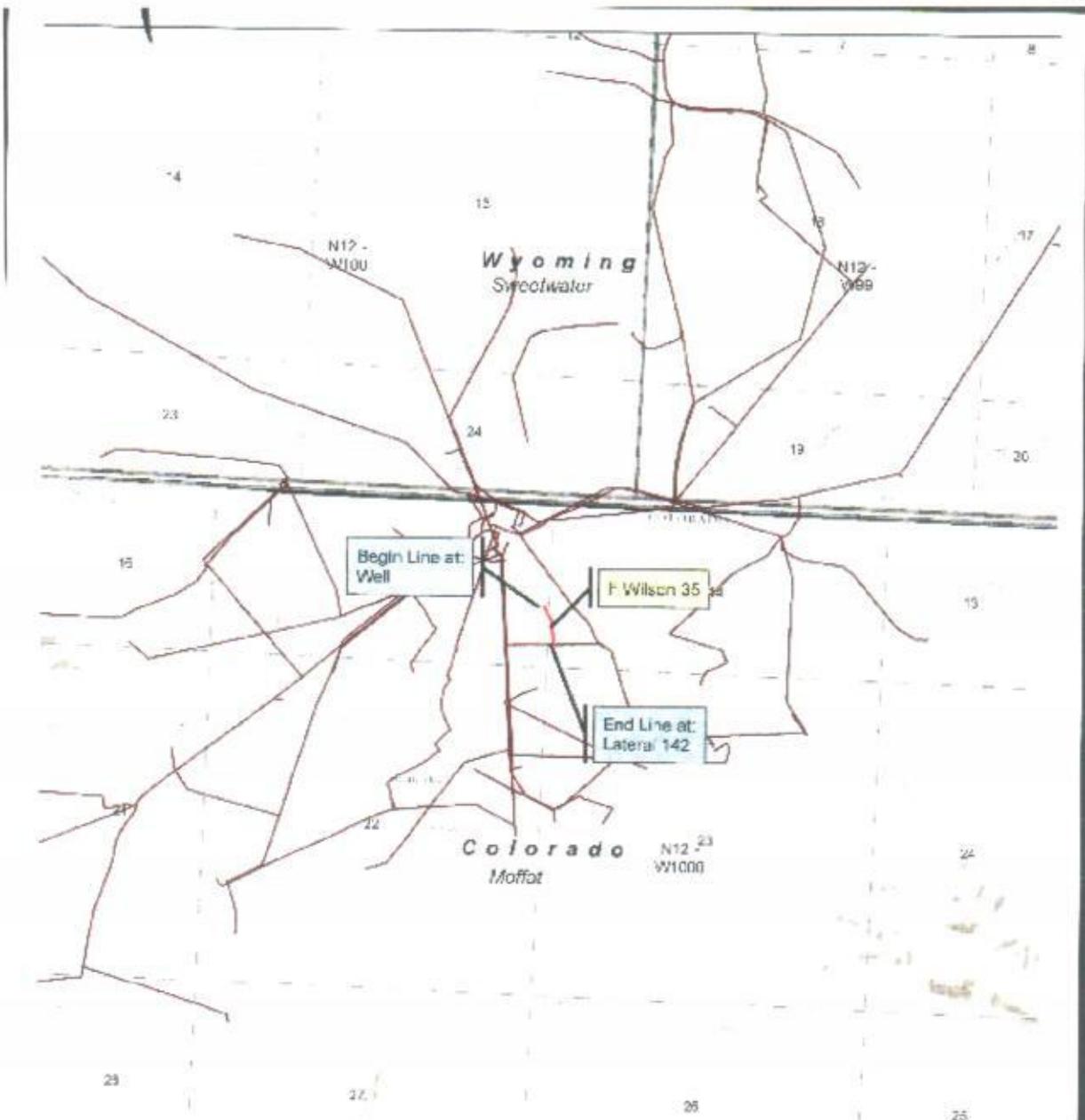
Date: 11/25/2014 Author: SAS

Revised:



Sources: Esri (AEC, DeLorme, Terracon, InRoads, Intergraph, P Corp., GEBCO), IGN, FAD, NPS, INRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kaasler/NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, Mapbox India, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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<p>Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 feet</p>	<p>Date: 11/25/2014 Author: SAS</p>	<p>Reference:</p>



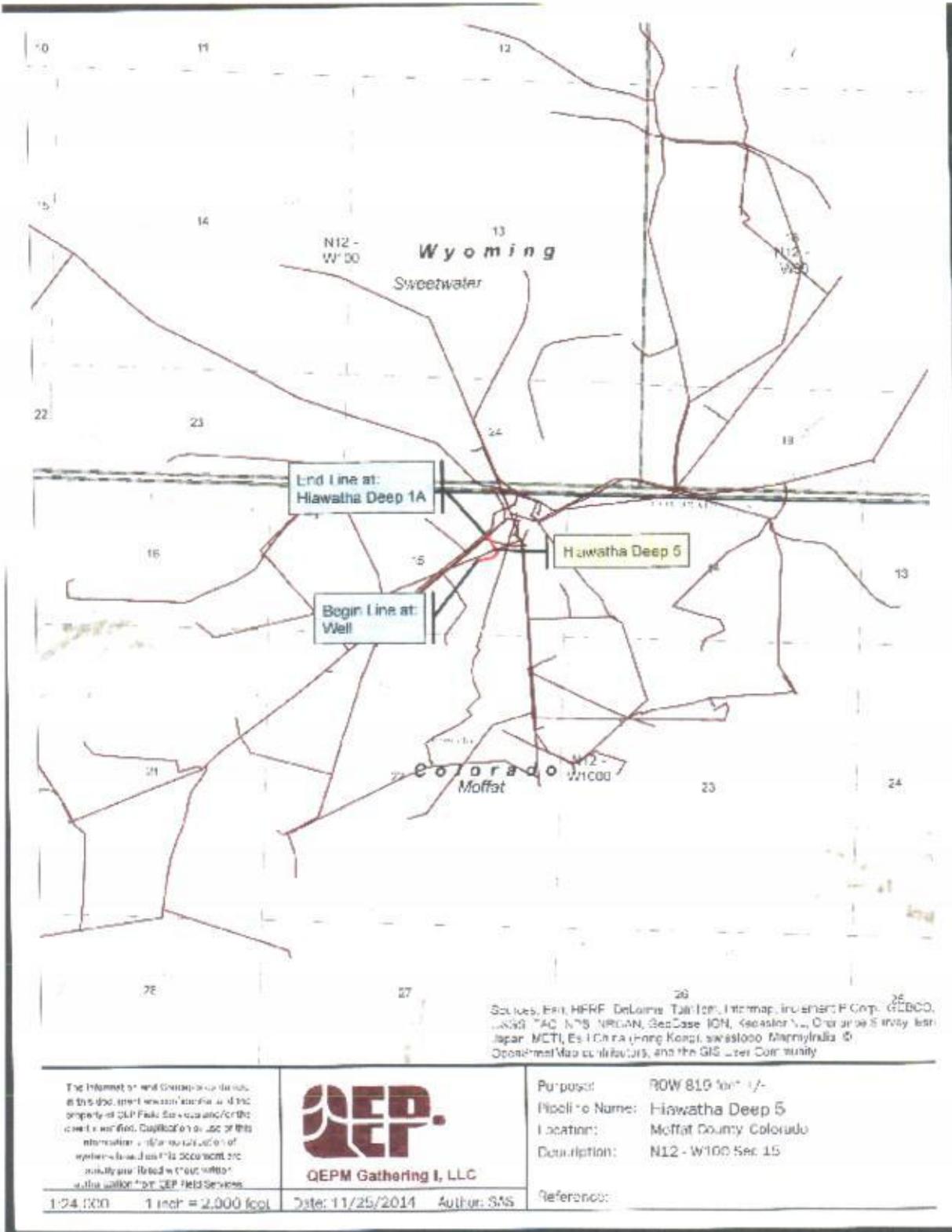
Source: Esri, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, iPCorp, GeoBCO, USGS, Esri, Fugro, NRCAN, GeoBasis, SW, Korea, NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri, Japan, METI, Swisstopo, (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, Mapbox, Mapbox, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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Purpose: ROW 634 feet +/-
 Pipeline Name: F Wilson 35
 Location: Moffat County, Colorado
 Description: N12 - W100 Sec 15, 14

Scale: 1:24,000 1 inch = 2,000 feet Date: 11/25/2014 Author: SAS Reference:



Sources: Enr, HRRF, DeLaine, Tallent, Hrcmap, Incheart P Corp, GEDCO, L&S, TAC, NPS, NRCAN, GeoCase, ION, Geospatial, Orange County, Japan, MCTI, Esri, China (Hong Kong), Swastika, MapInfo, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

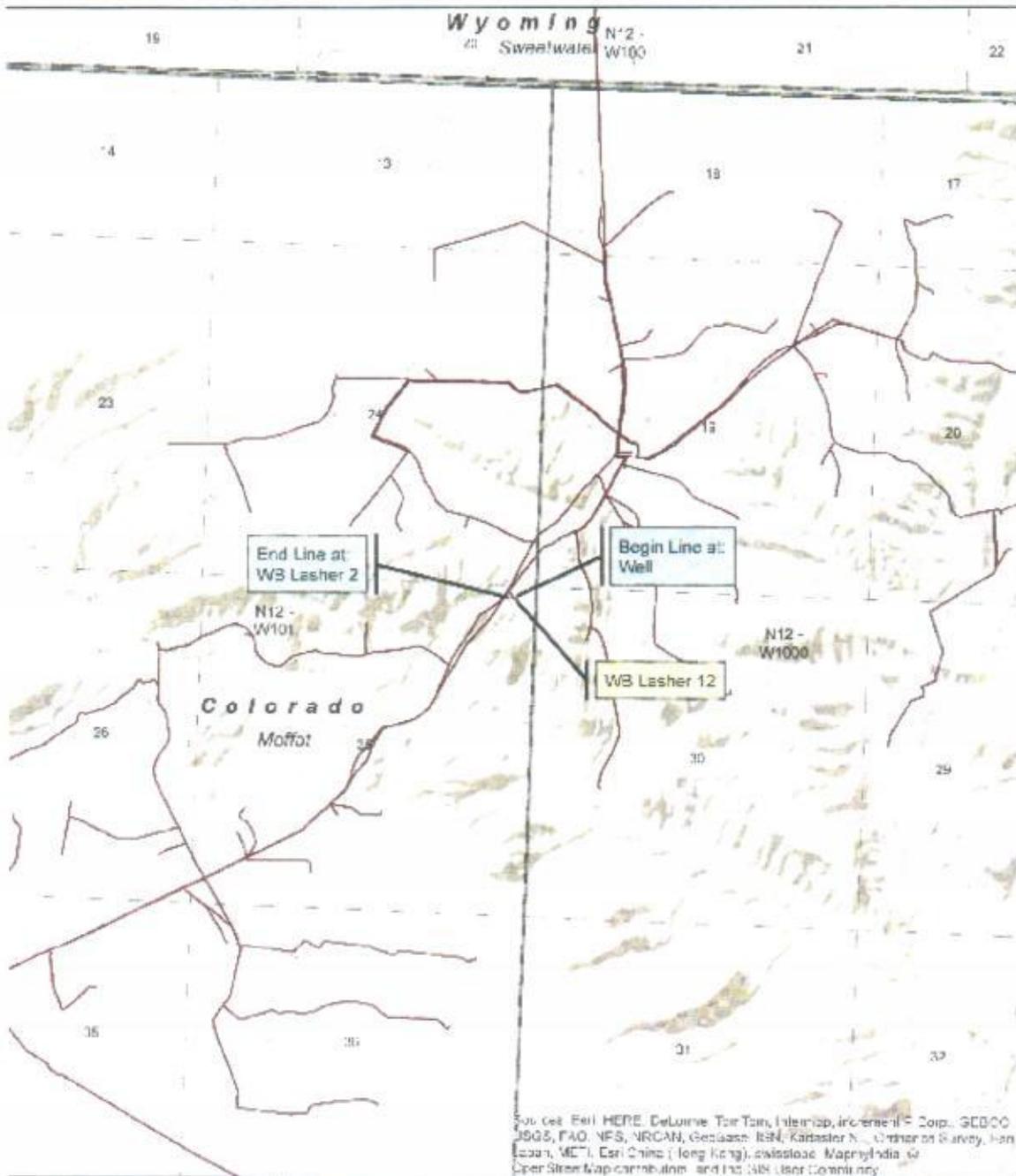
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Purpose: ROW 819 feet +/-
 Well Name: Hiawatha Deep 5
 Location: Moffat County Colorado
 Description: N12 - W100 Sec 15

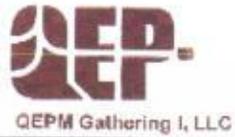
1:24,000 1 inch = 2,000 feet Date: 11/25/2014 Author: SAS

References:



Source: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, IGN, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeBCast, IGN, Kartastor N., Center for Survey, Map Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, Mapbox India, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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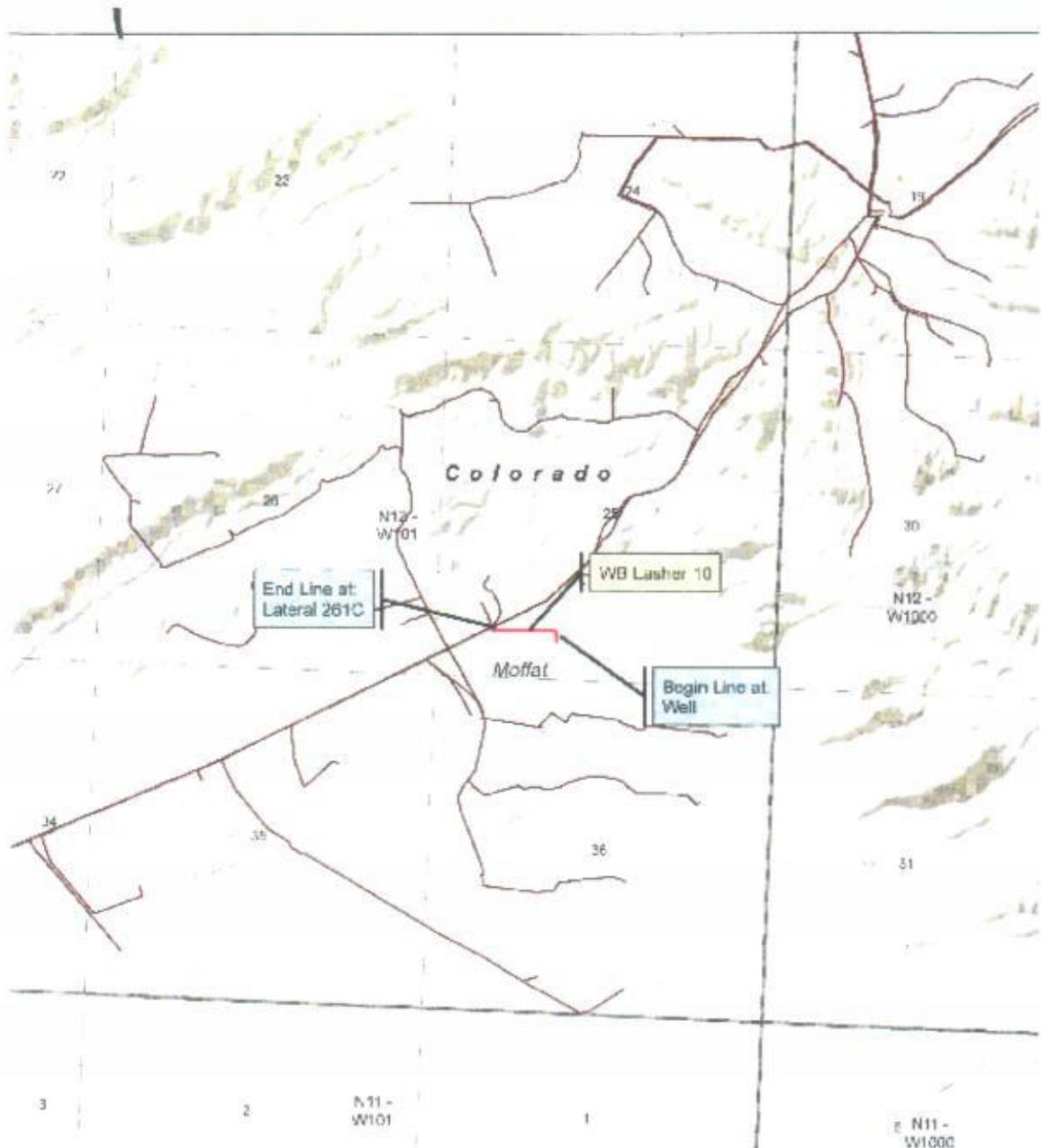


Purpose: ROW 50 feet +/-
 Well Name: WB Lasher 12
 Location: Moffat County, Colorado
 Description: N12 - W101 Sec 25

1:24,000 1 inch = 2,000 feet

Date: 11/25/2014 Author: SAS

Reference:



Source: Esri, DeLorme, Colorado, TomTom, Intermap, iSatellite, GEBCO, JSCS, FAO, Swisstopo, GEBCO, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, Mapbox, and the GIS User Community.

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1:24,000 1 inch = 2,000 feet	Date: 11/25/2014 Author: SAS	Reference: