

**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-N010-2015-0024-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC044228, COC044229A,  
COC044230, COC077077

PROJECT NAME QEPM Compressor Site Amendments for Combustor Equipment

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado

- COC044228, Powder Wash North Side, T. 12 N., R. 97 W., sec. 32, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ .
- COC044229A, East Hiawatha, T. 12 N., R. 100 W., sec. 15, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ .
- COC044230, West Hiawatha 1, T. 12 N., R. 100 W., sec. 19, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .
- COC077077, Powder Wash Musser, T. 11 N., R. 97 W., sec. 4, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

APPLICANT: QEPM Gathering I LLC

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: QEPM Gathering I LLC (QEPM) has submitted applications to amend their existing compressor site rights-of-way (ROW) to add combustors and related equipment to regulate the maximum amount of out breathing air emissions of smog-forming volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from dehydrators and tanks to 6 tons per year.

The hardware associated with the work includes:

- Combustor on prefabricated 3' X 3' concrete pad
- 46 Gallon Knock Out Drum
- 3" Flame Arrestor
- ARC Burner Management System
- JATCO BTEX Unit
- 4' X 8' Buildings
- Solar Charging System, with Solar Panel, Two 12V Batteries, Battery Box

The above equipment will be installed next to the current tank. Approximately 20 feet of 4 inch surface pipe will be installed from the new BTEX unit to the new knock out drum and approximately 20 feet of 3 inch surface pipe will be installed from the knock out drum to the new combustor. A JATCO BTEX unit will also be installed inside of the current dehydrator building at the Powder wash sites. 4' X 8' buildings will be installed at the Hiawatha sites for the JATCO BTEX units. Minimal ground disturbance will occur to connect wire from the combustor to the existing Remote Operation Controller (ROC). The building and all permanent above ground facilities, valving and metering, not subject to safety requirements, will be painted Shale Green.

The installation period will last approximately 2 days at each location. The work force is expected to be 5 people. The construction work force will commute daily. QEP will notify the authorized officer of any fires during installation. QEP, or its contractor, will take the initial fire suppression action in the work area.

A new authorization will be issued at the Powder Wash Musser Compressor Site to accommodate the new equipment. The 6,555.57 sq ft area, 0.02 acre, is adjacent to the compressor site on the formerly Musser #5 well pad area.

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 (13). 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<u>    X    </u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<u>    X    </u>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<u>    X    </u>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<u>    X    </u>
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.	<u>    X    </u>
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.	<u>    X    </u>
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<u>    X    </u>
10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<u>    X    </u>
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).	<u>    X    </u>
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).	<u>    X    </u>

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Title	Resource	Date
Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	4/13/15
Rangeland Mgmt Spec	T&E Plants	4/6/2015
Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animals	4/1/15

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: 4/15/15

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:

  
for Wendy Reynolds, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

4/15/15

## 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. Buildings not being utilized for the JATCO BTEX Units will be removed.
3. All equipment which has open-vent exhaust systems shall be designed and constructed to prevent birds and bats from entering or nesting in or on such units, and to the extent practical, to discourage birds from perching on the exhaust stacks.
4. The holder shall maintain batteries in accordance with manufacturer's specifications to prevent corrosion, leaks, spills, and other case damage immediately around each battery and from spilling onto the floor. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) shall be posted in a visible location inside the storage facility. All MSDS recommendations shall be followed by the holder to eliminate possibility of leaks, spills and unnecessary personnel exposures. All batteries and contents shall be treated as hazardous waste and proper disposal methods followed for recycling and disposal.
5. All above-ground structures not subject to safety requirements shall be painted by the holder to blend with the natural color of the landscape. The paint used shall be a color which simulates "Standard Environmental Colors" designated by the Rocky Mountain Five-State Interagency Committee. The color selected for this compressor site is Shale Green (5Y 4/2).
6. Upon completion of construction, the holder shall post the Bureau serial number assigned to the rights-of-way at the location(s). Appropriate signs will be installed for identifying the location, site name, company name, and emergency telephone number.
7. Surface disturbance and vehicular travel will be limited to the approved location and approved access route. Any additional area needed will be approved in advance.
8. All applicable terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in the original right-of-way grant and any amendments shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.
9. Any cultural and/or paleontological (fossil) resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to

determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and the authorized officer will make any decision as to proper mitigation measures after consulting with the holder.

10. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the find and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO) at (970) 826-5000. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for project activities again; and
- Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) (Federal Register Notice, Monday, December 4, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 232) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone at (970) 826-5000, and 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), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

11. If any vertebrate paleontological resources are discovered during operations, all operations affecting such sites shall be immediately 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.

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

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the operation and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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).

- 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, head cutting, 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.

21. Prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized officer to arrange a pretermination conference. At least 90 days prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the Authorized Officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. The inspection will result in the development of an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan submitted by the holder. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, and surface material, recontouring, topsoiling and seeding.