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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Questar ML68 Washout Temporary Use Permit
DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0061-CX

Identifying Information

Project Title: Questar ML68 Washout Temporary Use Permit

Legal Description: Sixth Principal Meridian,
T. 2S., R. 97W., sec 6, Lot 21 & 22;
T. 2S., R. 101W., sec 35, SW¼NW¼;
T. 2S., R 103W., sec 6, Lot 1,
Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

Applicant: Questar Pipeline Company

Casefile: COC77190

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: "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

Questar Pipeline Company (Questar) has submitted an application for the repair of four washout sites along an existing right-of-way (ROW) for the ML68 pipeline (COC0123685). Questar would need a 100 foot by 100 foot temporary extra work space in these four locations to allow for the activities associated with this proposed work. The majority of the work would be within the 50 foot ROW, and Questar is requesting an additional workspace of 25 feet by 100 feet on

each side of the existing ROW, containing 0.11 acres, at each of the four sites, (0.46 acres inside existing ROW and 0.46 acres outside) for a total of 0.92 acres all on BLM lands.

- Site #1 has a ten-foot section and Site #2 has a five-foot section of pipe, both exposed in ephemeral stream channels. The proposal is to install Flexamat, in order to protect the pipe from erosion and exposure. Flexamat consists of concrete shapes locked together with a high strength, polypropylene geogrid. The Flexamat would be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The ends would be keyed into the channel banks. Six- to eight-inch diameter riprap rock would be installed on either side of the Flexamat, with geofabric installed under it.

- At Site # 3 and # 4, the proposal would be to install concrete caps to prevent hitting the pipeline while blading the roadway barrow ditch. This concrete cap would be installed in the barrow ditch and could consist of a slab that would extend three feet on either side of the pipeline and underneath the length of the bar ditch.

All access would be on existing roads and the existing ROW. All public access roads would be returned to their original condition and all disturbed areas would be restored, as close to practical, to the condition that existed prior to work being performed. An estimated ten workers would be required for each site. Equipment used for construction would be an excavator, pickup trucks and a compactor. Dust generated during construction would be controlled as necessary. Construction activities would begin with the removal of above ground vegetation, obstacles, and all available topsoil. Grading at the site may be necessary to create a relatively flat working surface for the heavy equipment and vehicles. Both temporary and permanent erosion control structures would be installed during construction to minimize potential for soil loss due to wind and water erosion. These could include sediment barriers, silt fences, culvert installations, water bars, and erosion control matting, and would be utilized until permanent vegetation is deemed successful or other permanent structures have been installed.

Depending on weather conditions, cleanup and reclamation would occur as soon as practical. Areas to be vegetated would be disked or harrowed to loosen soils and break soil clods; surfaces would be roughened to reduce potential for wind and water erosion and to facilitate moisture capture. Slopes would be imprinted using a tracked excavator to provide small depressions for seed germination. Seed would be broadcast and raked and/or harrowed to cover the seed. Questar would be responsible for monitoring reclamation success in the work area. The project would be scheduled to occur as soon as all requirements are met with the BLM.

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. Any excavations into the deep alluvial soils in the bottom of the drainages at sites 1 and 2 for placement of erosion control features will require an archaeological monitor.

4. 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.

5. 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.
6. 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.

7. A paleontological monitor will be required for work at repair work area #3.

8. If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying rock at sites 1 and 2 a paleontological monitor will be required when the rock formation is encountered.

Categorical Exclusion Review

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, E.19: "*Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.*"

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		x
b) 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; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		x
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		x
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		x
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		x
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		x
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		x
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		x
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		x
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		x
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		x
l) 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.		x

Interdisciplinary Review

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 05/26/2015. 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	6/3/2015
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	6/24/2015
Heather Woodruff	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	5/29/2015
Keesha Cary	Realty Specialist	Project Lead	6/26/2015
Joe David	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance	07/07/2015

Cultural Resources: Site #1: The requested work area is covered by all or portions of four Class III (100 percent pedestrian) inventories (Conner and Davenport 2006 compliance dated 10/31/2006, Hauck 2001 compliance dated 6/22/2001, Pennefather-O'Brien *et al.* 1992 compliance dated 12/17/1992, Piontkowski 2006 compliance dated 5/3/2006) which have not identified any cultural resources in the proposed project area. The project would not have any direct impacts on known cultural resources. There are no known cultural resources within 1000 feet (305 meters) of the proposed project area that would be indirectly impacted by work in the site #1 work area.

Site #2: The requested work area is covered by all or portions of three Class III (100 percent pedestrian) inventories (Hauck 2001 compliance dated 6/22/2001, Piontkowski 2006 compliance dated 5/3/2006, Weston and Welch 2006 compliance dated 11/30/2006) that have no identified any new cultural resources in the work areas. The proposed project would not have any direct impacts on known cultural resources. There are no known cultural resources within 1000 feet (305 meters) of the proposed project area that would be indirectly impacted by work on the site #2 work area.

Site #3: The requested work site is within the area inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) inventory for the Colorado Interstate Gas Uintah Basin pipeline (Pennefather-O'Brien *et al.* 1992 compliance dated 12/17/1992) and no cultural resources were identified in the requested work area. There would be no impacts to any known cultural resources near the requested work area.

Site #4: The requested work area is in a drainage bottom and is covered by all or portions of four Class III (100 percent pedestrian) inventories (Conner and Davenport 2005 compliance dated 7/12/2005, Pennefather-O'Brien 1992 compliance dated 12/17/1992, Piontkowski 2006 compliance dated 5/3/2006, Weston and Welch 2006 compliance dated 11/30/2006). Inventories have identified a rock shelter approximately 305 feet (93 meters) to the west of the proposed work area. Workers should refrain from visiting the site and be advised that collecting artifacts or excavation of the site is unlawful and could subject the participants to legal proceedings.

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.

Paleontological Concerns: Site #1: The site is located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979), which is classified by the BLM as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation meaning that it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock to install the erosion control features, there is a potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossils. Should fossil be impacted there is a potential for a loss of scientific data from the regional paleontological database, which would likely permanent, long term and irretrievable.

Site #2: The site is located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979), which is classified by the BLM as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation, meaning that it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. If it becomes

necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock to install the erosion control features, there is a potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossils. Should fossil be impacted, there is a potential for a loss of scientific data from the regional paleontological database, which would likely permanent, long term and irretrievable.

Site #3 is located in an area generally mapped as the Wasatch Formation (Tweto 1979), which the BLM has classified as a PFYC 5 formation, indicating that is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. A vertebrate fossil locality is located approximately 130 feet from the washed out location on the pipeline. Any excavation into the underlying sedimentary rock to prepare the area forth concrete cap on the pipeline could potentially impact scientifically important fossil resources. Any impacts to the fossil resources would likely result in a permanent, long term irreversible and irretrievable loss of scientific data from the regional paleontological database.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the proposed repairs. All disturbances would take place from existing roads and two-tracks and would be confined to previously disturbed right-of-ways and during timeframes that are not coincident with important reproductive activities.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There are no special status plant species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

References Cites:

Conner, Carl E., and Barbara J. Davenport

2005 Class III Cultural Resource inventory Report for the Six Proposed Reroutes of the EnCana Meeker, Pipeline in Rio Blanco County Colorado for Trigon EPC. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (05-11-10: OAHP # RB.LM.R830)

2006 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report for the Proposed Chevron Skinner Ridge Pipeline Project n Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado for Trigon EPC. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (06-11-49: MC.LM.R518)

Hauck, F. Richard

2001 Cultural Resource Evaluation of 11 Proposed Mallard Well Locations & Associated Pipeline/Access Corridors in the Piceance Creek Locality of Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Archeological-Environmental Research Corporation, Bountiful, Utah. (01-38-08: OAHP # RB.LM.R441)

Pennefather-O'Brien, Elizabeth, Patrick Lubinski, and Michael D. Metcalf

1992 Colorado Interstate Gas Company Uinta Basin Lateral 20" Pipeline: Class III Cultural Resource Final Report Utah, Colorado and Wyoming. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado. (92-54-26: OAHP # MC.LM.R71

Piontkowski, Michael

2006 A Report of the Class III Inventory on the EnCana Meeker South and West Pipelines and Related Facilities, Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado, and Uintah County, Colorado. Uncompahgre Archaeological Consultants, grand Junction, Colorado. (06-145-01: OAHP # MC.LM.R470)

Tweto, Ogden
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

Weston, Jason D. and James M. Welch
2006 Twin Basin Gathering System: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for Installation of a Natural Gas Gathering System pipeline in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Western Land Services Inc., Sheridan, Wyoming. (06-161-02: RB.LM.R979)

Mitigation

1. For reclamation, the BLM recommends Seed Mix #3 for sites 1, 2 and 3 outlined in Table 1 and modified Seed Mix 3 for site 4 outlined in Table 2. It is recommended that seeding occur between September 1 and March 31. If an alternate date of seeding is requested, contact the designated Natural Resource Specialist prior to seeding for approval. Drill seeding is the preferred method of application and drill seeding depth must be no greater than ½ inch. If drill seeding cannot be accomplished, seed should be broadcast at double the rate used for drill seeding, and harrowed into the soil.

Table 1. Seed Mix 3 for Reclamation of sites 1, 2 and 3.

Cultivar	Common Name	Scientific Name	Application Rate (lbs. PLS/acre)
Rosana	Western Wheatgrass	*Pascopyrum smithii*	4
Whitmar	Bluebunch Wheatgrass	*Pseudoroegneria spicata* ssp. *inermis*	3.5
Rimrock	Indian Ricegrass	*Achnatherum hymenoides*	3
	Needle and Thread Grass	*Hesperostipa comata* ssp. *comata*	2.5
Maple Grove	Lewis Flax	*Linum lewisii*	1
	Scarlet Globemallow	*Sphaeralcea coccinea*	0.5

Table 2. Modified Seed Mix 3 for Reclamation of site 4.

Rosana	Western Wheatgrass	*Pascopyrum smithii*	4
Critana	Thickspike Wheatgrass	*Elymus lanceolatus* ssp. *lanceolatus*	3
Magnar	Basin Wildrye	*Leymus cinereus*	3.5
	Needle and Thread Grass	*Hesperostipa comata* ssp. *comata*	2.5
Maple Grove	Lewis Flax	*Linum lewisii*	1
	Scarlet Globemallow	*Sphaeralcea coccinea*	0.5

2. All seed tags will be submitted via Sundry Notice (SN) to the designated Natural Resource Specialist within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended. The SN will include the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding well pad, cut and fill slopes,

seeding pipeline corridor, etc.). In addition, the SN will include the site number associated with the seeding activity, if applicable, the name of the contractor that performed the work, his/her phone number, the method used to apply the seed (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), whether the seeding activity represents interim or final reclamation, the total acres seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.

3. Each year by January 1st,Questar will submit a Reclamation Status Report to the WRFO that includes the site numbers, legal description, UTM coordinates, project description (e.g., well pad, pipeline, etc.), reclamation status (e.g., interim or final), whether the pipeline has been re-vegetated and/or re-contoured, date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site, acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydro-seeded, etc.), and contact information for the person responsible for developing the report. The report will include maps showing each point (i.e., well pad), polygon, and/or polyline (i.e., pipeline) feature that was included in the report. The data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. In addition, scanned copies of seed tags that accompanied the seed bags will be included with the report. Internal and external review of the WRFO Reclamation Status Report and the process used to acquire the necessary information will be conducted annually, and new information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the report.
4. The operator will meet the following reclamation success criteria, and these standards apply to all reclamation:
   a) Self-sustaining desirable vegetative groundcover consistent with the site Desired Plant Community (DPC) (as defined by the range site, WRFO Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) protocol site data (BLM TN 440), ecological site or an associated approved reference site) is adequately established as described below on disturbed surfaces to stabilize soils through the life of the project.
   b) Vegetation with eighty percent similarity of desired foliar cover, bare ground, and shrub and/or forb density in relation to the identified DPC. Vegetative cover values for woodland or shrubland sites are based on the capability of those sites in an herbaceous state.
   c) The resulting plant community must have composition of at least five desirable plant species, and no one species may exceed 70 percent relative cover to ensure that site species diversity is achieved. Desirable species may include native species from the surrounding site, species listed in the range/ecological site description, AIM data, reference site, or species from the BLM approved seed mix. If non-prescribed or unauthorized plant species (e.g., yellow sweetclover, *Melilotus officinalis*) appear in the reclamation site BLM may require their removal.
   d) Bare ground does not exceed the AIM data, range site description or if not described, bare ground will not exceed that of a representative undisturbed DPC meeting the Colorado Public Land Health Standards.
5. All equipment that may act as a vector for weeds must be cleaned before entering the project areas.
6. Application of herbicides must comply with the *Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environments Impact Statement* (EIS), and the WRFO Integrated Weed Management Plan (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA).

7. All seed, straw, mulch, or other vegetative material to be used on BLM lands will comply with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) state noxious weed seed requirements and must be certified by a qualified Federal, State, or county office as free of noxious weeds. Any seed lot with test results showing presence of State of Colorado A or B list species will be rejected in its entirety and a new tested lot will be used instead. All areas identified to be disturbed under this proposal will be monitored and treated for noxious weeds on an annual basis for the life of the project until Final Abandonment has been approved by the Authorized Officer.
8. Pesticide Use Proposals (PUPs) must be submitted to and approved by the BLM before applying herbicides on BLM lands. The PUP will include target weed species, the herbicides to be used, application rates and timeframes, estimated acres to be treated, as well as maps depicting the areas to be treated and known locations of weeds. The WRFO recommends that all PUPs be submitted no later than March 1st of the year anticipating herbicide application.
9. If the operator damages any range improvement project(s) (e.g. fences, gates, water development, cattleguards) the operator will notify the Authorized Officer through Sundry Notice (Form 3160-5) and identify the actions taken to repair the feature(s) promptly. Repairs must be prior to the livestock grazing permittee's need to utilize the range improvement.
10. Dust suppression will be accomplished only with fresh water free of any chemicals, oils or solvents.

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, E.19. 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 46.215 apply.

Kent E. Walter

Field Manager

07/08/2015

Date

Appendix A. Figures

Exhibit A
06/2015

Temporary Use Permit - Questar Pipeline Company
6TH PM, T. 2S., R. 97W., sec. 6, Lot 21 & 22,
Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

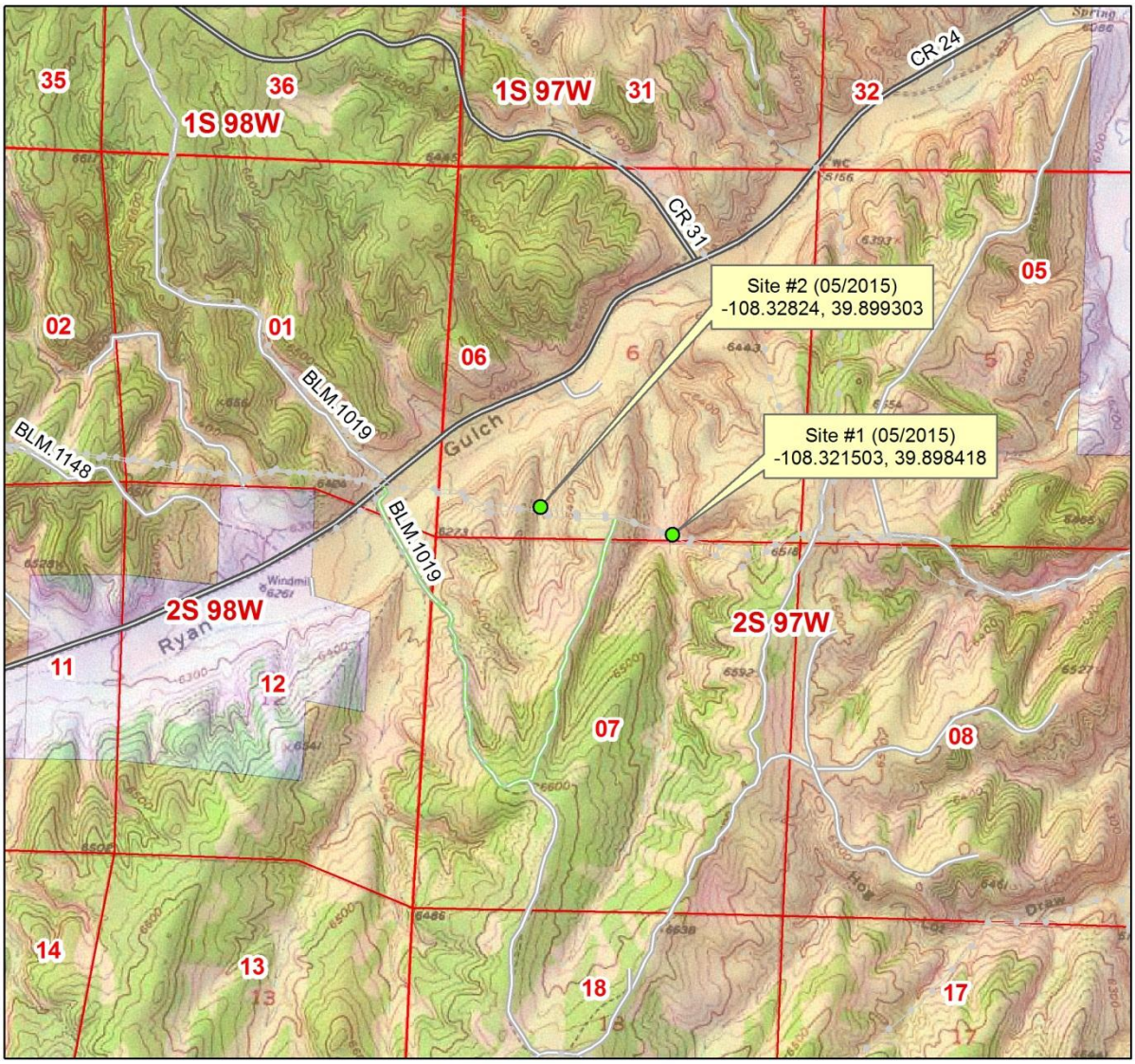
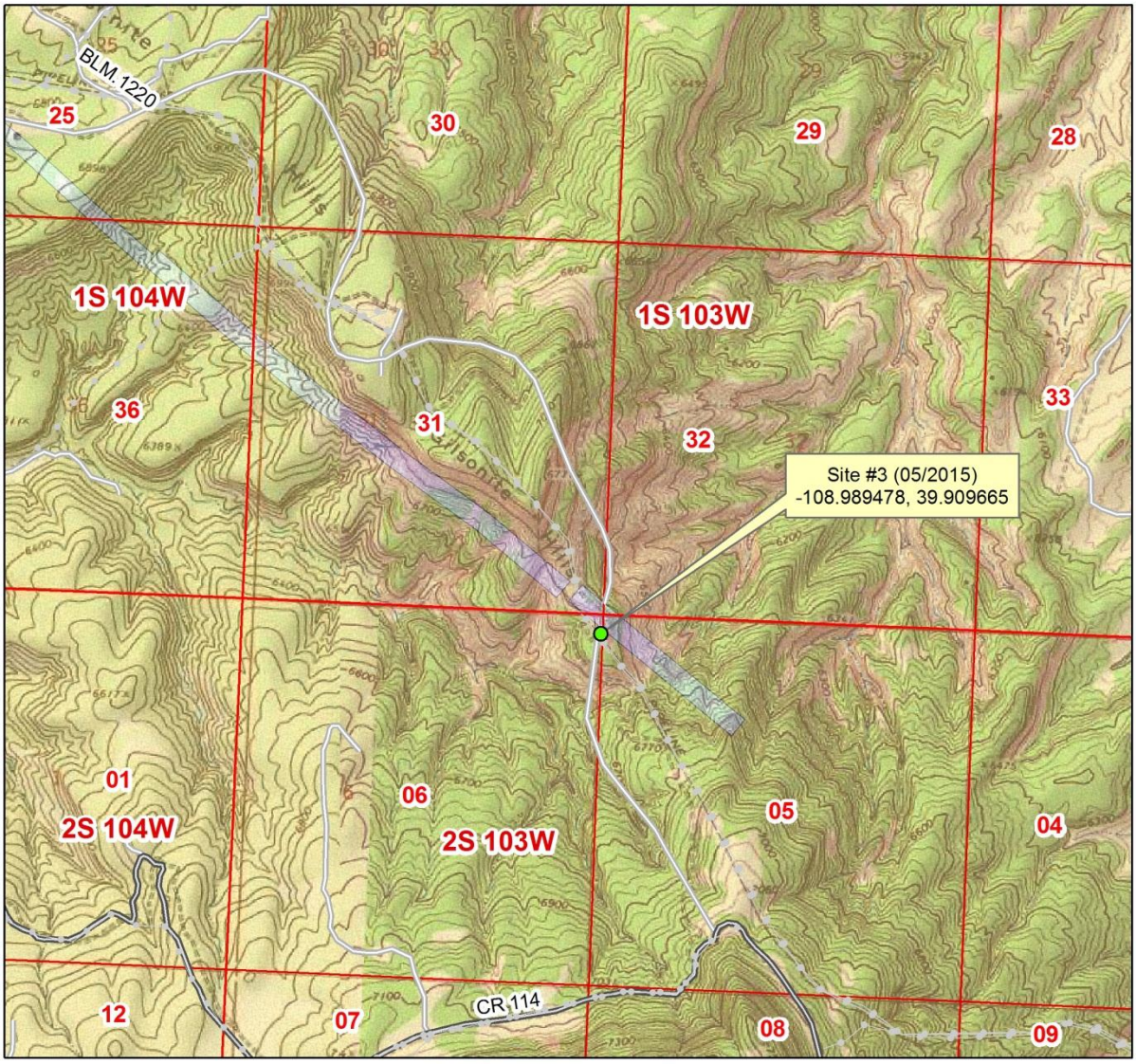


Exhibit A

06/2015

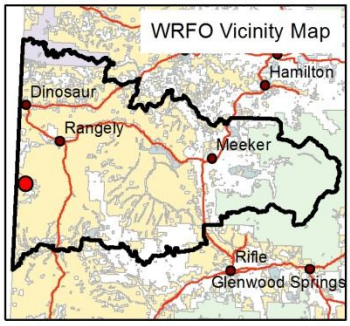
Temporary Use Permit - Questar Pipeline Company
6TH PM, T. 2S., R. 103W., sec. 6, Lot 1,
Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

N



Legend

- Pipelines
- Roads_BLM
- Section Lines
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- USFS
- NPS
- PRI
- STA



0 900 1,800 3,600 Feet

Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

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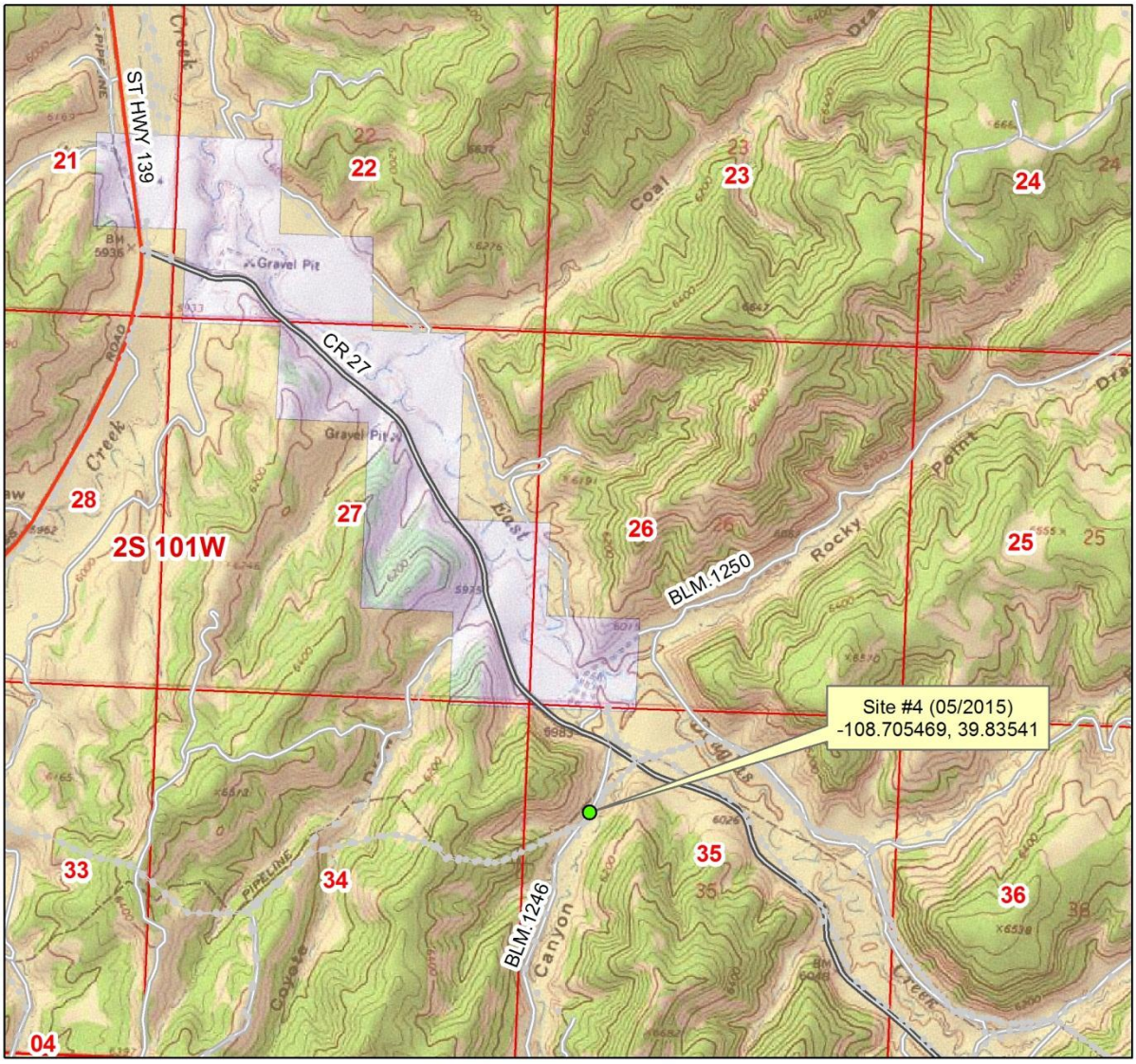
Exhibit A

06/2015

Temporary Use Permit - Questar Pipeline Company
6TH PM, T. 2S., R. 101W., sec. 35, SWNW,
Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

N



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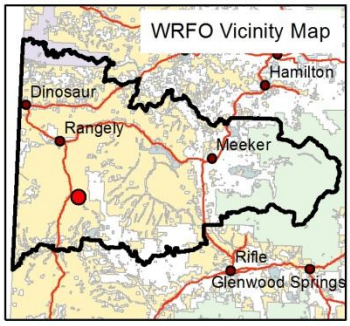

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