

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652**

PROJECT PROPOSAL

NUMBER

DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2015-0080-EA

CASEFILE NUMBER

COC 54361

PROJECT NAME

SourceGas Eagle Pipeline Reroute and Upgrade

PROJECT SYNOPSIS

Rocky Mountain Natural Gas (RMNG), a subsidiary of SourceGas LLC, is proposing to upgrade a segment of the Rifle to Avon natural gas pipeline that serves natural gas customers in Garfield, Eagle, Pitkin, and Summit Counties. The segment of pipeline is located within the vicinity of the Eagle Ranch Subdivision south of Eagle, CO and is currently in a Class 3 area as defined by the Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) and requires an upgraded pipeline wall thickness to maintain the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) and/or relocation away from densely populated areas.

Rocky Mountain Natural Gas is proposing 3 alternatives to complete the necessary pipeline upgrade. Alternative 1 involves replacing the existing pipeline segment within the existing easement through the Class 3 Eagle Ranch Subdivision. Alternatives 2 and 3 involve rerouting the pipeline south of the Class 3 area through BLM land and the Town of Eagle Open Space land. The proposed pipeline upgrade would be approximately 3.4 to 4.6-miles long depending on the alternative selected. SourceGas is requesting a 50-foot permanent ROW on BLM and easement on the Town of Eagle Open Space, plus a 25-foot wide temporary use permit to provide for construction access, equipment operation, and material handling. SourceGas has also requested three 1-acre temporary work areas, for staging equipment and materials. The temporary work areas would be located in Hernage Creek Gulch, Third Gulch, and Hardscrabble Mountain Road. SourceGas is proposing to begin work early summer 2016.

Plant and cultural resource surveys are currently being completed. When the surveys are completed and analyzed, RMNG will submit a final Proposed Action.

Pending a final Proposed Action, please see the Project Proposal document on this website for additional details. The Project Proposal is expected to be very close to the final Proposed Action and is being posted now to aid the public in understanding the project and for providing comments to the BLM.

Project Location:

The project is located on Bureau of Land management (BLM) – administered lands and Town of Eagle Open Space lands in Eagle County, Colorado. The project area is located south of Eagle in the vicinity of the Eagle Ranch Subdivision.

The legal description for the project is as follows:

Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 5 S., R. 84 W.,
Sections 9, 14 - 17, and 20 - 22.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this EA is to respond to a proposal from RMNG for authorization to amend an existing BLM right-of-way grant to assist RMNG in meeting safe operating standards and continued natural gas distribution to SourceGas and Xcel Energy customers in Eagle and Summit Counties.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The pipeline known as the Rifle to Avon pipeline is a natural gas transmission pipeline serving the 75-mile stretch between Rifle and Vail, Colorado. The pipeline was constructed in 1994 and is co-owned by SourceGas and Xcel Energy. The pipeline is a 12.75-inch outer wall diameter, 0.219-inch wall thickness, X-52 grade steel pipeline that has an authorized maximum allowable pressure (MAOP) of 1,200 psi. To ensure service reliability and meet the demand for natural gas in this four county area – Garfield, Pitkin, Eagle, and Summit counties – the Rifle to Avon pipeline needs to be running at its authorized MAOP. The pipeline is currently running at a reduced pressure level of 900 psi due to federal safety regulations established by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) that govern the proximity between high pressure pipelines and homes, businesses and places of public assembly. The segment of pipeline in the Eagle Ranch vicinity is currently in a class 3 area as defined by PHMSA and requires an upgraded thickness of 0.312-inches to maintain the MAOP and/or relocation 220 yards away from the nearest cluster of buildings meant for human occupancy.

RMNG is proposing 3 alternatives to complete the necessary pipeline upgrade. Alternative 1 involves replacing the existing pipeline segment within the existing easement through the Class 3 Eagle Ranch Subdivision. Alternatives 2 and 3 involve rerouting the pipeline south of the Class 3 area through BLM land and the Town of Eagle Open Space land. Alternative 1 would be approximately 4.6 miles in length and Alternatives 2 and 3 would be approximately 3.4 miles in length.

RMNG is requesting a 50-foot permanent ROW on BLM and easement on the Town of Eagle Open Space, plus a 25-foot wide temporary use permit to provide for construction access, equipment operation, and material handling. RMNG has also requested three 1-acre temporary work areas, for staging equipment and materials. These temporary work areas would be located in Hernage Creek Gulch, Third Gulch, and Hardscrabble Mountain Road. The project would also include one above-ground valve structure located approximately 300-feet south of the water tank in Hernage Creek Gulch.

Construction is anticipated to begin in May 2016, pending completion of this analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Anticipated duration of construction would be approximately 5 months. Site Reclamation would occur after completion of the pipeline installation and is anticipated to be completed prior to winter 2016-2017. The pipeline would be operated on a year-round, 24-hours per day basis by RMNG.

Prior to construction, the right-of-way (ROW) and/or easement would be cleared of brush and vegetation (**Figure 2 and 3**). During trenching operations the top soil would be segregated from the subsurface material. The new pipeline segment would be strung along the ROW and/or easement, welded together, and then lowered into the trench. Once the new pipeline segment is in place the line would be hydrotested to 1,800 psi. After hydrotesting, the new pipeline segment would be pigged to remove all the water and then would be tied into the existing line. The existing pipeline segment would be abandoned in place and would be documented in SourceGas records and GIS data as abandoned. The abandoned segment would be attached to a test station so it can be located in the future. The ROW and easement would be reclaimed in accordance with BLM and the Town of Eagle Open Space requirements.

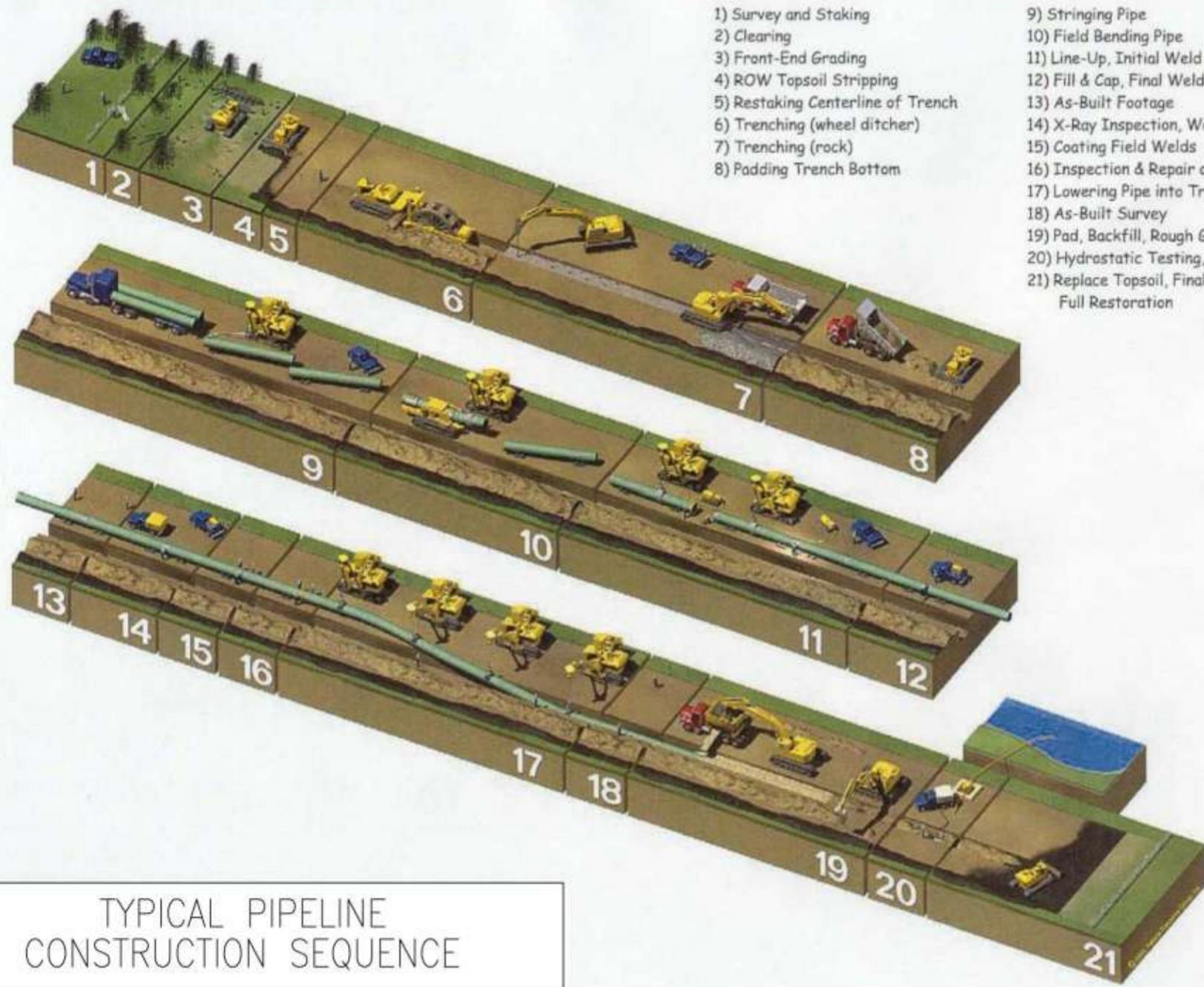
NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would not authorize construction or other ground-disturbing activities on BLM-managed Federal land. Upgrading the pipeline through Town of Eagle Open Space and Eagle Ranch land, if it were to occur, would be determined by the non-Federal parties.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Literature, data, and Land Use Plan (LUP) reviews were conducted to identify sensitive resources in the project area. Resources identified included populations and habitat for wildlife (e.g., mule deer, elk, and raptors) and a threatened trout subspecies, populations and habitat for a sensitive plant, Waters of the U.S., cultural resources, outcrops potentially containing scientifically significant fossil resources, and visual resources. Field surveys have been conducted for most resources, with some surveys not yet completed.

The field survey results and public comments will be used to evaluate the project alternative relative to impacts to sensitive resources. Once a preferred alternative is selected, SourceGas will retain a land surveyor certified by the State of Colorado to survey and stake the proposed ROW and easement. Mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or offset project impacts will be determined during development of the EA. These measures would become conditions for approval by the BLM, applied as stipulations to the right-of-way grant.



- 1) Survey and Staking
- 2) Clearing
- 3) Front-End Grading
- 4) ROW Topsoil Stripping
- 5) Restaking Centerline of Trench
- 6) Trenching (wheel ditcher)
- 7) Trenching (rock)
- 8) Padding Trench Bottom
- 9) Stringing Pipe
- 10) Field Bending Pipe
- 11) Line-Up, Initial Weld
- 12) Fill & Cap, Final Weld
- 13) As-Built Footage
- 14) X-Ray Inspection, Weld Repair
- 15) Coating Field Welds
- 16) Inspection & Repair of Coating
- 17) Lowering Pipe into Trench
- 18) As-Built Survey
- 19) Pad, Backfill, Rough Grade
- 20) Hydrostatic Testing, Final Tie-In
- 21) Replace Topsoil, Final Clean-Up, Full Restoration

TYPICAL PIPELINE
CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE

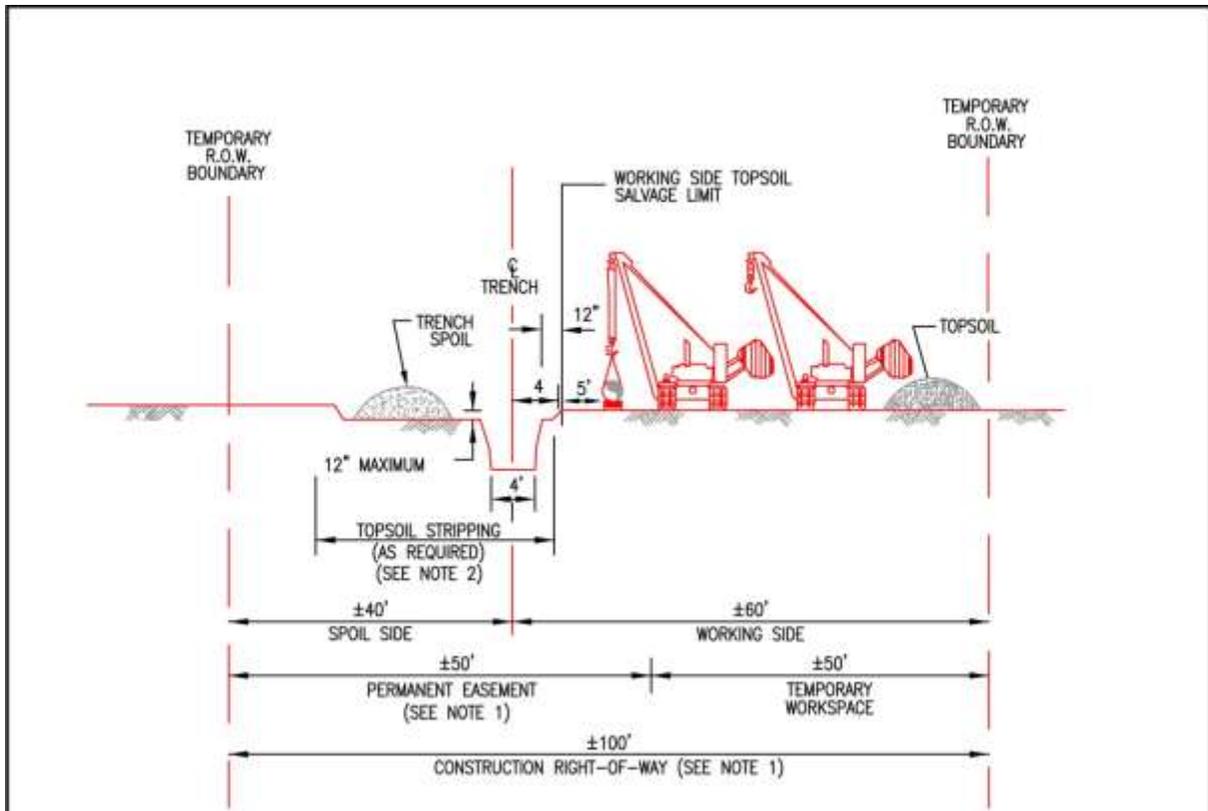
DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 49—PART
192 OF MINIMUM FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS
AND OPTIC GUIDE FOR GAS TRANSMISSION AND
DISTRIBUTION PIPING SYSTEMS, LATEST EDITION.

REVISIONS					
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD	APPR
1	7/1/07	ISS INITIAL RELEASE	WS	WS	SSC



TYPICAL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE		
DATE:	7/1/07	APPROVED BY:
SCALE: N.T.S.	CST-P-1000-R000	SH, 1 OF 1

Figure 2. Typical Pipeline Construction Sequence



TYPICAL PROFILE

NOTES:

1. CONSTRUCTION RIGHT-OF-WAY WILL TYPICALLY BE 100 FEET WIDE CONSISTING OF 50 FEET OF PERMANENT EASEMENT AND 50 FEET OF TEMPORARY WORKSPACE. EXTRA TEMPORARY WORK SPACE WILL BE NECESSARY AT MAJOR ROAD, RAIL AND RIVER CROSSINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, AS REQUIRED. CERTAIN SITUATIONS MAY REQUIRE A NARROWER WIDTH.
2. THIS DRAWING REFLECTS "TRENCH AND SPOIL SIDE" TOPSOIL STRIPPING PROCEDURE. SALVAGE TOPSOIL OVER TRENCH AND UNDER THE SPOIL PILE AT LOCATIONS IDENTIFIED ON THE CONSTRUCTION ALIGNMENT SHEETS, OR AS DIRECTED BY THE COMPANY'S REPRESENTATIVE. MINIMUM WIDTH OF TOPSOIL STRIPPING ON THE WORKING SIDE OF TRENCH IS 12 INCHES.
3. STOCKPILE TOPSOIL AS SHOWN OR IN ANY CONFIGURATION APPROVED BY THE COMPANY'S INSPECTOR. KEEP TOPSOIL CLEAN OF ALL CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS.
4. LEAVE GAPS IN TOPSOIL AND SPOIL PILES AT OBVIOUS DRAINAGES. DO NOT PUSH TOPSOIL INTO CREEKS OR WETLANDS. DO NOT USE TOPSOIL FOR PADDING. AVOID SCALPING VEGETATED GROUND SURFACE WHEN BACKFILLING TOPSOIL PILE.
5. TEMPORARILY SUSPEND TOPSOIL HANDLING OPERATIONS DURING INORDINATELY WINDY CONDITIONS UNTIL MITIGATIVE MEASURES TO MINIMIZE WIND EROSION CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.

DRAWING DEPICTED IS SUPERSEDED BY WRITTEN STANDARD, SCOPE OF WORK OR LINE LIST.

REVISIONS				
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD/APPR
1	7/1/07	NO INITIAL RELEASE	WS	WS SSC



TYPICAL TOPSOIL SEPARATION
TRENCH & SPOILSIDE METHOD

DATE: 07/01/07	APPROVED BY:
SCALE: N.T.S.	CST-P-1280-A255 SH. 1 OF 1

Figure 3. Typical Pipeline Profile