

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-145-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC67322

PROJECT NAME: Buried 10-inch pipeline

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado

T. 4 S., R. 98 W.,
Sec. 13, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 14, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

APPLICANT: Encana Gathering Services (USA) Inc.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional):

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: Encana Gathering Services (USA) Inc. (Encana) has applied for an amendment to their existing right-of-way COC67322 to bury a 10-inch pipeline.

Proposed Action: The proposed action is for an amendment to an existing right-of-way which originally was for a 6-inch temporary surface pipeline. Encana has requested to bury a 10-inch steel or poly pipeline using the same route that the temporary line now occupies. New construction is 6,000 feet in length with a permanent width of 30 feet encompassing 4.13 acres, more or less. An extra work width of 30 feet (4.13 acres) will be required during construction. The extra work space will be reclaimed immediately upon completion of the project. The temporary 6-inch pipeline will be removed upon completion of the 10-inch pipeline. The 10-inch pipeline will be a high pressure line.

From West Hunter Creek to East Hunter Creek to the top of the ridge between East Hunter Creek and Willow Creek will be new construction until it crosses over onto private at the section line between 13 and 24.

A buried pipeline will require that the right-of-way be cleared of vegetation and trench opened up to accommodate burying the pipeline. Normal construction equipment for pipelines will be used: dozers, trucks, pipe stringers, side-booms, backhoes, etc. Industry standards for pipeline construction will be followed.

The term of this right-of-way will be changed from three years (for the temporary surface line) to 30 years for a permanent line, with a new expiration date of December 31, 2033. This action will be authorized pursuant to Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

EA CO-110-2004-015 analyzed this route for the 6-inch temporary surface line which was approved on 12/18/03.

No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative the application would be denied and the 6-inch pipeline would remain in place.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

NEED FOR THE ACTION: The 10-inch pipeline is needed in order to handle increased production of oil and gas in the area.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

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

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

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.”

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by the proposed action. During periods of low precipitation, air quality in the area of the proposed action is often diminished by dust caused by human disturbance.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during and after construction, due to dust being blown into the air. After adequate vegetation is reestablished, blowing dust should return to pre-construction levels.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No increase in dust will occur.

Mitigation: None

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed permanent pipeline route has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Pennefather-O'Brien 2003, Compliance Dated 11-19-2003) with no cultural resources identified in the pipeline route.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed pipeline will not impact any known cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. The operator 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 materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). 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 site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are

correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the 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), 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.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The noxious weed houndstongue occurs in the project area and has potential to invade and proliferate on areas of earthen disturbance. The alien invasive species, cheatgrass also occurs in the project area in disturbed, unvegetated areas

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There is potential for noxious weed establishment and proliferation at the road crossings where the pipeline will be buried.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: The applicant will revegetate all disturbed areas with Standard Seed mix #6 and monitor the project area for a minimum of three years post-disturbance. Eradicate all noxious and invasive species using materials and methods approved by the Authorized Officer.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Non-game populations associated with these ranges are widespread and common throughout sagebrush and mountain shrub habitats in this Resource Area (e.g., green-tailed and spotted towhee, vesper and lark sparrows). There are no specialized or narrowly endemic species known to occupy the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Although this action would represent an incremental and longer term reduction in the extent of sagebrush and mountain shrub habitat available for migratory bird breeding functions, implementation of this project would have no measurable influence on the abundance or distribution of breeding migratory birds even at the smallest landscape scale.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Incremental reductions of sagebrush and mountain shrub rangelands would not occur at this time or place.

Mitigation: None.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive animal species occurring within the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive animal species occurring within the project area. Thus, this standard is not applicable.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at sites included in the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. Solid wastes would be properly disposed of.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action crosses the following drainages: Scandard Gulch, West Willow, East Willow, Whiskey Gulch, Bull Fork, (tributary to Willow Creek, Piceance Creek and the White River), West Hunter Creek and East Hunter Creek (tributary to Hunter Creek, Piceance Creek and the White River). These streams are ephemeral at each crossing. A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. All actions are within the White River watershed.

The State has classified the Hunter Creek segments as Aquatic Life Cold 1, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The state has further defined water quality parameters with table values. These standards reflect the ambient water quality and define maximum allowable concentrations for the various water quality parameters. The anti-degradation rule applies to this segment meaning no further water quality degradation is allowable that would interfere with or become harmful to the designated uses. The Willow Creek segments are classified as "Use Protected". Its designated beneficial uses are: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The antidegradation review requirements in the Antidegradation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. For this reach, minimum standards for three parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0, Fecal Coliform = 2000/100 ml, and 630/100 ml E. coli. This segment retained its Recreation Class 2 designation after sufficient evidence was received that a Recreation Class 1a use was unattainable.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: As with any surface disturbing activity, depleting the vegetation cover needed to protect watersheds from raindrop impact and runoff could cause short-term erosion problems and increased sedimentation to the White River until successful best management practices (BMPs) have been implemented and proven successful. The magnitude of these impacts is dependent on the amount of surface disturbance and climatic conditions during the time the soils are exposed to the elements.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts from the no-action alternative could be greater if the aged pipeline were not maintained.

Mitigation: Through the use of BMPs, keep sediment from leaving the proposed site.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The water quality of these drainages discussed above is well within the criteria set by the state, thus meeting the land health standard. The proposed action will not change this status.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: This project will cross two perennial streams, East and West Willow Creek. The pipeline also follows approximately 0.6 mile of West Willow Creek. Both of these streams have experienced extensive livestock grazing. Large portions of these streams are in non-functional condition with riparian character largely suppressed. Most areas involved highly impacted and eroded banks with a light cover of non-native grasses.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There is a risk of sediment from construction being deposited into these systems. Compaction from heavy equipment is also possible.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: Avoid deposition of sediment or fill material into East and West Willow Creek where the surface line crosses or follows the stream. Heavy equipment use should be minimized to reduce or avoid compaction where possible.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The land health standard for riparian systems will not be affected as a result of this project.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACEC’s, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness, or Wild and Scenic Rivers, threatened, endangered or sensitive plants exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species Public Land Health Standard is not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status plants. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The soils have been mapped in an order III soil survey by NRCS and are available from that office for review. Refer to the table below for the type of soils affected by the proposed action.

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	Run Off	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
36	Glendive fine sandy loam		Foothills Swale	2-4	Slow	Slight	>60
43	Irigul-Parachute complex	12-45%5-30%	Loamy Slopes/Mountain Loam	<2	Rapid	Slight to high	10-20
50	Irigul-Starman channery loams	5-35%	Dry Exposure	<2	Medium	Moderate to very severe	11
56	Parachute-Irigul-Rhone association	25-50%	Loamy Slopes	0	Medium to rapid	Moderate to very severe	25

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	Run Off	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
58	Parachute Loam	25-75%	Brushy Loam	<2	Medium	Very high	20-40
59	Parachute-Rhone loams	5-30%	Mountain Loam	<2	Medium	Moderate to high	20-40
63	Silas loam	1-12%	Mountain Swale	0	Slow	Very Severe	>60
65	Pinelli clay laom	3-12%	Clayey Foothills	2-4	Medium to rapid	Moderate to high	>60
67	Tosca channery loam	25-80%	Brushy Loam	<2	Rapid	Very Severe	>60
82	Silas loam	0-8%	Mountain Swale	<2	Medium	Slight to moderate	>60
87	Starman-Vandamore complex	5-40%	Dry Exposure/Dry Exposure	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	10-20
91	Torriorthents-Rock Outcrop complex	15-90%	Stoney Foothills	2-4	Rapid	Very high	10-20
96	Veatch channery loam	12-50%	Loamy Slopes	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	20-40

Revegetation limitations for these soil types include an arid climate, droughty soil conditions and steepness of slopes. Portions of the proposed pipeline locations have been mapped as areas that have fragile soils on slopes greater than 35 % which indicates problems such as fragile soil, high salt concentrations, excessive erosion, or steep slopes. CSU-1 stipulation description states, surface-disturbing activities will be allowed only after the operator submits an engineered construction/ reclamation plan and approved by the Area Manager. The plan would address how soil productivity would be restored and how surface runoff would be treated to avoid accelerated erosion and mass wasting. Exceptions would be granted if after environmental analysis the proposed action did not fit the criteria identifying fragile soils on slopes greater than 35% or the disturbance would not result in any long-term decrease in site productivity or increased erosion: The following segments are where the pipeline route intersects the hill slope that has been mapped as a CSU-1: West Willow to the top of the ridge between West Willow and Bull Fork, the east facing slope of Whiskey Gulch and the east facing slope of East Hunter Creek.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There would be an increase in erosion and sedimentation from overland flows, due to excavation and stockpiling while the pipeline is being constructed. These impacts would be short term during the construction phase and for a period after construction providing successful reclamation occurs.

Because there are segments of the pipeline route in an area that has been identified as CSU-1, it is important to recognize the increased erosion potential and design BMPs, which will minimize this erosion potential. Submitting a copy of the Stormwater Discharge Plan, which is required by the State (Stormwater Discharge Permit) identifying how BMPs will be used to reduce stormwater discharge and erosion off of the reclaimed pipeline, could replace the construction/reclamation plan required by the BLM. BMPs used to slow runoff, trap sediment and prepare reclaimed areas for seeding would also help reduce soil loss. With an explanation of how these BMPs will be used and implemented, impacts are expected to be short in duration,

during the construction phase and for a short time after construction until successful reclamation is achieved.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts from the no-action alternative could be greater if the aged pipeline were not maintained.

Mitigation: When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site.

Submit a copy of the Stormwater Discharge Plan, which is required by the State (Stormwater Discharge Permit) identifying how BMPs will be used to reduce stormwater discharge and erosion off of the reclaimed pipeline.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: Soils at the proposed locations currently meet the criteria established in the Public Land Health Standard. The proposed action would not change this status providing the company adheres to the recommended mitigation.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The principal plant communities affected by the proposed action include basin big sagebrush (Foothill swale ecological site), mountain browse (brushy loam ecological site).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed project will create significant earthen disturbance throughout the route. If the proposed mitigation is applied there will be no significant negative impact to the affected plant communities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: The applicant will recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed mix #6 and monitor the project area for a minimum of three years post-disturbance. Waterbars should be constructed along the entire length of the right of way to the minimum BLM standard. Eradicate all noxious and invasive species using materials and methods approved by the Authorized Officer.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Upland plant communities in the project area currently meet the Standard and will continue to after implementation of this project.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There is no aquatic wildlife associated with the streams involved in this project.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): There is no aquatic wildlife associated with this project. The land health standard thus does not apply.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The terrain in the vicinity of the proposed action is dominated by mountain a shrub community (e.g., serviceberry, Gambel oak, bitterbrush, sagebrush and rabbitbrush) with some occurrence of pinyon juniper woodlands. Approximately 70% of the line will follow existing roads or rights-of-way. A pocket of aspen exists along Whiskey Gulch in NE, NE of Section 24 in T4S, R98W that has documented use by red-tailed hawks. The northeastern portion of the project area occurs in a Winter Concentration Area for elk. No stipulations or Conditions of Approval exist in the White River ROD/RMP for this designation. Elevation for the project area is 7,000-8,100 feet.

This project falls within Overall Range for greater sage-grouse as designated in the ROD/RMP. No leks are known to occur within at least a mile of the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There will be a short-term disturbance during the construction of this pipeline. However, the majority of this disturbance will be confined to existing roads and rights-of-ways. The construction of this project could result in disturbance to nesting raptors. Greater sage-grouse are not known to occur or derive important benefit anywhere within one mile of the length of this pipeline.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No disturbance or removal of vegetation would occur at this time and place.

Mitigation: A current raptor survey must be conducted for the aspen stand in the NE, NE of Section 24 T4S R98W if this project is not completed by February 1. It is the responsibility of EnCana to contact the BLM (970-878-3800), or a third party contractor, to have this survey conducted if necessary.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): This project would not jeopardize the viability of any animal population. It would have no significant consequence on terrestrial habitat condition, utility, or

function, nor have any discernible affect on animal abundance or distribution at any landscape scale. This public land health standard will thus be met.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals		X	
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations		X	
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed pipeline route is located in an area mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Condition I formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Any excavation into the underlying bedrock formation to excavate the pipeline trench has the potential to adversely affect fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: A paleontological monitor shall be present at all times during excavation into the underlying bedrock formation for the pipeline trench.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

The project area has been delineated a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). SPM recreation setting is typically characterized by a natural appearing environment with few administrative controls, low interaction between users but evidence of other users may be present. SPM recreation experience is characterized by a high probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If construction of action coincides with hunting seasons (September through November) it will most likely disrupt the experience sought by those recreationists.

With the introduction of new well pads and roads, an increase of traffic could be expected increasing the likelihood of human interactions, the sights and sounds associated with the human environment and a less naturally appearing environment.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

Mitigation: None

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed project occurs within a Visual Resource Management (VRM) class III area. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Although the previous pipeline right-of-way was analyzed in EA CO-110-2004-015, the additional width and the fact that soil will be removed during the trenching process adds new visual impacts that will attract attention by the casual observer. By removing topsoil and exposing a color of soil that is not typically seen on the surface will create a color contrast that will be visible. In addition, as the right-of-way is essentially a straight line across the landscape where none appear naturally in the surrounding landscape, that too will draw attention to this proposed project. Although it will be visible to the casual observer it will not likely dominate the view therefore VRM class III objectives will continue to be met.

Cumulatively, this project is one of several projects within this geographic area and although this project in and of itself continues to meet VRM objectives, with the addition of other proposed oil

and gas infrastructure it is likely that as a whole the area will not meet VRM objectives in the future.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:

REFERENCES CITED:

Pennefather-O'Brien, Elizabeth

2003 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report for EnCana Oil and Gas (USA), Inc.s Proposed Temporary 6" Surface Pipeline in the Figure Four Unit, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado.

Tweto, Odgen

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

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Carol Hollowed	P & EC	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist.	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Marty O'Mara	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Carol Hollowed	P & EC	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	ORP	Wilderness
Carol Hollowed	P & EC	Soils
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	ORP	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	NRS	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	ORP	Recreation
Chris Ham	ORP	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	NRS	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2004-145-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below:

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. The operator 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 materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). 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 site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the 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), 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.

3. The applicant will revegetate all disturbed areas with Standard Seed mix #6 and monitor the project area for a minimum of three years post-disturbance. Eradicate all noxious and invasive species using materials and methods approved by the Authorized Officer.
4. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.
5. Through the use of BMPs, keep sediment from leaving the proposed site.
6. Avoid deposition of sediment or fill material into East and West Willow Creek where the buried line crosses or follows the stream. Heavy equipment use should be minimized to reduce or avoid compaction where possible.
7. When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site.
8. The holder will submit a copy of the Stormwater Discharge Plan, which is required by the State (Stormwater Discharge Permit) identifying how BMPs will be used to reduce stormwater discharge and erosion off of the reclaimed pipeline.
9. The applicant will recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed mix #6 and monitor the project area for a minimum of three years post-disturbance. Waterbars should be constructed along the entire length of the right of way to the minimum BLM standard. Eradicate all noxious and invasive species using materials and methods approved by the Authorized Officer.
10. A current raptor survey must be conducted for the aspen stand in the NE, NE of Section 24 T4S R98W if this project is not completed by February 1. It is the responsibility of EnCana to contact the BLM (970-878-3800), or a third party contractor, to have this survey conducted if necessary.
11. A paleontological monitor shall be present at all times during excavation into the underlying bedrock formation for the pipeline trench.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance will be conducted by the realty staff every five years.

NAME OF PREPARER: *Senny Brown*

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: *Caroline P. Haloword 9/8/04*

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: *Kevin Phil 9/8/04*
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 9/8/04

ATTACHMENTS: Location map of the proposed action.
Map of project area.

Location of Proposed Action CO-110-2004-145-EA

