

OVERLAND PASS PIPELINE PICEANCE LATERAL

APPENDIX 13

WINTER CONTINGENCY PLAN

PREPARED FOR:
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Winter Contingency Plan (Plan) identifies measures to be taken by Overland Pass Pipeline Company LLC (OPPC) and its contractors (Contractor) in the event construction of the Overland Pass Piceance Lateral occurs when snow is present on the ground and/or the ground is frozen below a level of three inches below the surface. Measures identified in this Plan apply to work within the project area defined as the right-of-way, access roads, temporary use areas, and other areas used during construction of the project on all lands administered by the BLM. Winter construction techniques on fee lands will be based upon conditions placed upon the contractor by the landowner.

OPPC and Contractor personnel are to be thoroughly familiar with this Plan and its contents prior to initiating construction on the project.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to outline procedures to be followed in frozen or spring runoff conditions in order to minimize environmental impacts to resources.

2.0 FROZEN CONDITIONS

Frozen conditions exist when soil is frozen to three inches below the surface or when snow has covered the ground. The following measures will be taken if construction occurs during frozen conditions:

- Topsoil stripping may be accomplished by first ripping the soil to break up frozen clods and make topsoil and subsoil separation possible.
- Topsoil stripping will only occur over the trench line unless it is necessary to strip the topsoil from the entire ROW in an effort to create a safe working place.
- Topsoil and subsoil piles will be separated into small enough piles such that water may drain around them if a thaw occurs.
- The Environmental Inspector will assess conditions on-site and direct Contractor as to how to handle frozen soils, timing of reclamation activities, and snow removal procedures.
- If clean up or reclamation activities are delayed due to weather conditions, the disturbed areas will be stabilized in order to reduce erosion of exposed soils.
- During hydrostatic test discharge, dissipation devices and other erosion and sedimentation control structures will be inspected regularly to insure they are in proper working order and have not iced up.
- Best efforts will be used to remove snow from the trench before the pipe is lowered in to minimize settling due to snow melting.
- Although some mixing of snow with spoil will occur, this should be minimized to prevent a large volume of snow from being used to backfill the trench.
- The Contractor will backfill the trench with available spoil, limiting the amount of snow allowed to mix with the soils (topsoil and spoils). If sufficient spoils remain, the trench line will be crowned in an effort to reduce the amount of settling in the spring.
- The remaining topsoil will be not redistributed over the trench line and other areas of topsoil removal until repair of the trench backfilling, if necessary, is completed come the following spring if necessary and once all soils have thawed out.
- Re-grading of the ROW after winter backfilling will be performed to the specifications of the EI and the BLM if necessary.

3.0 SNOW MANAGEMENT AND STORAGE

Best efforts will be used to implementing the following recommendations after significant snow events:

- Remove or pack snow on the working side of the ROW.
- Grade snow on the working side of ROW to improve driving conditions when necessary.
- Access roads will be plowed and cleared of snow as needed to allow for safe access to and from the ROW.
- Snow removal equipment will be confined to the boundaries of the ROW and access roads.
- Limit snow removal from the non-working side of the ROW. Excess snow that could affect backfilling and ROW reclamation should be removed to within 3-4 inches of the soil surface creating a buffer layer, thus avoiding mixing of the topsoil and subsoil.
- In the event of heavy snow fall or accumulation, snow will be stored on an additional 25-foot wide area adjacent to the existing ROW as long as no equipment is driven onto the snow storage area; no threatened, endangered, or sensitive species are adversely impacted; and no cultural resources will be adversely impacted.
- In the event that the 25-foot snow storage area becomes filled,
 1. The EI and BLM compliance monitor can approve on a case-by-case basis an additional 25-foot storage area to be utilized only if it is determined to be required for safety reasons and/or to allow construction to continue according to the Winter Construction requirement;
 2. Equipment can be driven on the initial 25-foot storage area to push excess snow on the additional storage area, leaving at least 1 foot of snow cover on the primary storage area;
 3. The area has been surveyed for TES species and cultural resources; no threatened, endangered, or sensitive species are adversely impacted; and
 4. No cultural resources will be adversely impacted.
- Prior to lowering the pipe and backfill, best efforts will be made to clean the pipe and trench of snow.

4.0 EROSION CONTROL

Temporary and permanent erosion control and stabilization methodologies shall be implemented in accordance with the Environmental Protection Plan. Monitoring of erosion control structures and other BMS will be closely monitored during snow melt.