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## Original Filing

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

Electronic Filing

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Reference: e3af565d-2952-47b3-8158-1bff95b21377

Filed For: Prospector Pipeline Company

In accordance with NRS Chapter 719,  
this filing has been electronically signed and filed  
by: /s Donna Ellis for Downey Brand LLP

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By electronically filing the document(s),  
the filer attests to the authenticity of the electronic signature(s) contained therein.

-----  
This filing has been electronically filed and deemed to be signed by an authorized agent or  
representative of the signer(s) and  
Prospector Pipeline Company

**UTILITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT  
PERMIT APPLICATION**

**North Elko Pipeline**

**Applicant: Prospector Pipeline Company**

Transmittal Letter

**DRAFT** Notice

UEPA Application

Attachment A – Regional Map

Attachment B – Site Maps

Attachment C – Project Plans - **IN PROGRESS**

Attachment D – Environmental Statement - **IN PROGRESS**

Attachment E – Route Alternatives Considered – **IN PROGRESS**

Attachment F - Public Notice and Proof of Publication

Attachment G – Certificate of Service

**Downey Brand Transmittal Letter/Filing Page**

January 20, 2012

Alaina Burtenshaw, Esq., Chairman  
Rebecca Wagner, Commissioner  
David Noble, Commissioner  
Crystal Jackson, Executive Director  
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada  
1150 East William Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Prospector Pipeline Company  
- UEPA Permit to Construct Pipeline

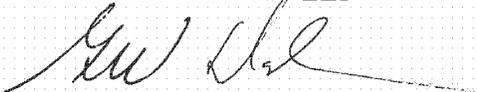
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to NRS 704.870, attached for your consideration is the Utility Environmental Protection Act Permit Application for a North Elko pipeline by Prospector Pipeline Company.

A copy of this application will be mailed concurrently with this filing to the Clerks of Elko and Eureka Counties, and to the Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation of Natural Resources.

Respectfully submitted,

DOWNEY BRAND LLP



Gary W. Duhon

GWD:de

1209359.1

Attachment



No consumer session is required.

If the draft notice pertains to a tariff filing, please include the tariff number AND the section number(s) or scheduled number(s) being revised.

Not applicable.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA**  
**UTILITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT**  
**PERMIT APPLICATION**

**North Elko Pipeline**

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## 1. Description of Location

A description of the location of the proposed utility facility as required by subsection 1 of NRS 704.870 including:

- (a) A general description of the location of the proposed utility facility, including a regional map that identifies the location of the proposed utility facility (NAC 703.423(1)(a)):

The proposed project, known as the North Elko Pipeline Project (NEPP) consists of a privately owned and operated 8 to 12 inch diameter natural gas pipeline. The proposed pipeline will connect to the natural gas source at existing Ruby Pipeline Mainline Valve (MLV) Station #24 (MLV-24) requiring a new, adjacent facility that will be known as the Willow Creek Meter Station. This facility will be located on public land immediately south of and adjacent to the existing Ruby Pipeline MLV-24 station. From this connection point, the pipeline will run east adjacent to the Ruby Pipeline for 1.2 miles to just west of China Spring where it will head generally south toward the NV Energy Coyote Creek Substation.

One small isolation valve station (Coyote Creek MLV) will be required along the route, and will be located on private property near the existing NV Energy Coyote Creek Substation). From the Coyote Creek MLV, the pipeline will trend south and east to the Goldstrike Meter Station. This facility will be located on private property within the Goldstrike Mine. See Attachment A (Regional Map) and Attachment B (Site Maps).

- (b) A legal description of the site of the proposed utility facility, with exception of electric lines, gas transmission lines, and water and wastewater lines, for which only a detailed description of the site is required (NAC 703.423(1)(b)): and

The precise route has not been approved by BLM, but the route is anticipated to run through the following sections:

Township/Range	Section	Legal Description
39 North, 49 East	32	S2SE4
	33	S2SW4, SW4SE4
38 North, 49 East	3	SW4SW4
	4	E2E2
	10	SW4NE4, N2SE4, SE4SE4, SE4NW4, N2NW4
	11	SW4SW4, SE4SW4
	13	N2SE4, N2SW4, SE4SE4, SW4NW4
	14	NE4NW4, S2NE4, NW4NE4
	36	E2E2, SW4SE4
38 North, 50 East	18	SW4SW4
	19	E2W2, NW4NW4
	30	NE4NW4, SW4NW4, W2SW4, SE4NW4
	31	NW4NW4

37 North, 49 East	1	W2NE4, SE4NW4, W2SW4
	2	SW4SE4
	10	NE4NE4, S2NE4, N2SE4, SE4SE4
	11	N2N2
	12	NW4NW4
	14	SW4NW4, SW4
	15	NE4NE4, SE4NE4
	23	NE4NW4, W2NE4, SE4NE4, W2SE4, NE4SE4
	26	W2NE4, NE4SW4, SE4SW4, NW4SE4
	35	E2NW4, N2SE4, NE4SW4
	36	NW4SW4, S2SW4, SW4SE4

36 North, 49 East	1	NW4NE4, E2NE4, NE4SE4
-------------------	---	-----------------------

36 North, 50 East	6	NW4NW4, NW4SW4, S2SW4, SW4NW4
	7	NE4NW4, N2NE4
	8	N2NW4, NW4NE4, SE4NE4, NE4SE4
	9	W2SW4
	16	W2W2
	21	W2W2
	28	NW4NW4
	29	NE4NE4

- (c) Appropriately scaled site plan drawings of the proposed utility facility, vicinity maps and routing maps (NAC 703.423(1)(c)).

Design plans for construction of the proposed project are In Progress, and will be provided upon completion.

## 2. General Description of Facility

A description of the proposed facility including:

- (a) The size and nature of the proposed facility (NAC 703.423(2)(a)):

The North Elko Pipeline will be an 8 to 12" diameter natural gas line starting at a connection with the Ruby Pipeline and terminating at the Goldstrike Mine. The total proposed length of the pipeline is ± 24 miles.

See Attachment B (Site Maps) and Attachment C (Project Plans – In Progress, and will be provided upon completion.)

The purpose of the proposed project is to supply natural gas from the recently completed Ruby Pipeline for delivery to the Goldstrike Mine to replace current propane usage. The North Elko Pipeline Project is intended to supply cleaner burning natural gas to fuel equipment at the Goldstrike Mine that is presently being fueled by petroleum based fuels, i.e., propane.

- (b) The natural resources that will be used during the construction and operation of the proposed facility (NAC 703.423(2)(b)):

The BLM will conduct environmental review of the project. An amended UEPA application will be filed pursuant to NRS 704.870(2)(b), containing the information required by this section, upon issuance of a final environmental document by the BLM.

- (c) Layout diagrams of the proposed utility facility and its associated equipment (NAC 703.423(2)(c)); and

See Attachment B (Site Maps) and Attachment C (Project Plans – **IN PROGRESS**, and will be provided upon completion.)

- (d) Scaled diagrams of the structures at the proposed facility (NAC 703.423(2)(d)).

See Attachment B (Site Maps) and Attachment C (Project Plans – **IN PROGRESS**, and will be provided upon completion.)

### **3. Environmental Studies**

A copy and summary of any studies which have been made of the environmental impact of the proposed facility as required by subsection 1 of NRS 704.870 (NAC 703.423(3)).

The applicant is seeking a right of way grant through the Tuscarora Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management Elko District (BLM) for the portions of the pipeline route on federal lands. BLM will conduct environmental review for the Project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The applicant will file an amended UEPA application pursuant to NRS 704.870(2)(b) upon issuance of a final environmental document by the BLM.

### **4. Reasonable Alternative Locations**

A description of any reasonable alternative locations for the proposed utility facility, a description of the comparative merits or detriments of each location submitted, and a statement of the reasons why the location is best suited for the proposed utility facility, as required by subsection 1 of NRS 704.870 (NAC 703.423(4)).

The BLM will conduct environmental review of the project, which review is expected to evaluate alternatives to the proposed project route. An amended UEPA application will be filed pursuant to NRS 704.870(2)(b), containing the information required by this section, upon issuance of a final environmental document by the BLM. With a fixed connection point at the Ruby Pipeline and fixed delivery point at the Goldstrike Mine, the applicant has considered several routes and portions of the route as alternatives for potential evaluation as part of BLM's environmental review, which alternatives have been developed through pre-application meetings with BLM.

### **5. Public Notice**

A copy of the public notice of the application or amended application and proof of the publication of the public notice as required by subsection 4 of NRS 704.870 (NAC 703.423(5)).

See Attachment F (Public Notice and proof of publication) and Attachment G (Certificate of Service - Clerk Elko and Eureka Counties)

### **6. State Clearing House**

Proof that a copy of the application or amended application has been submitted to the Division of Environmental Protection of State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NRS 704.875, (NAC 703.423(6)).

See Attachment G (Certificate of Service - Division of Environmental Protection of State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources).

## 7. Probable Effect on the Environment

An explanation of the nature of the probable effect on the environment, including:

- (a) A reference to any studies, if applicable (NAC 703.423(7)(a)); and
- (b) An environmental statement that includes (NAC 703.423(7)(b):
  - (1) The names, qualifications, professions and contact information of each person with primary responsibility for the preparation of the environmental statement (NAC 703.423(7)(b)(1));
  - (2) The name, qualifications, professions and contact information of each person who has provided comments or input in the preparation of the environmental statement (NAC 703.423(7)(b)(2));
  - (3) A bibliography of materials used in the preparation of the environmental statement (NAC 703.423(7)(b)(3)); and
  - (4) A description of (NAC 703.423(7)(b)(4):
    - (I) The environmental characteristics of the project area existing at the time the application or amended application is filed with the Commission;
    - (II) The environmental impacts that the construction and operation of the proposed utility facility will have on the project area before mitigation; and
    - (III) The environmental impacts that the construction and operation of the proposed utility facility will have on the project area after mitigation.

The BLM will conduct environmental review of the project. An amended UEPA application will be filed pursuant to NRS 704.870(2)(b), containing the information required by this section, upon issuance of a final environmental document by the BLM.

## 8. Reliable Utility Service

An explanation of the extent to which the proposed utility facility is needed to ensure reliable utility service to the customers in this State, including:

- (a) If the proposed utility facility was approved in a resource plan or an amendment to a resource plan, a reference to the previous approval by the Commission (NAC 703.423(8)(a)); or
- (b) If the proposed utility facility was not approved in a resource plan or an amendment to a resource plan, a description of the extent to which the proposed utility facility will (NAC 703.423(8)(b):
  - (1) Provide utility service to customers in this State (NAC 703.423(8)(b)(1));
  - (2) Enhance the reliability of utility service in this State (NAC 703.423(8)(b)(2)); and
  - (3) Achieve interstate benefits by the proposed construction or modification of transmission facilities in this State, if applicable (NAC 703.423(8)(b)(3)).

Not applicable.

#### **9. Need Versus Effect on the Environment**

An explanation of how the need for the proposed utility facility as described in subsection 8 (eight) balances any adverse effects on the environment as described in subsection 7 (seven) (NAC 703.423(9)).

The BLM will conduct environmental review of the project. An amended UEPA application will be filed pursuant to NRS 704.870(2)(b), containing the information required by this section, upon issuance of a final environmental document by the BLM.

#### **10. Minimum Adverse Impact on the Environment**

An explanation of how the proposed utility facility represents the minimum adverse effect on the environment, including:

- (a) The state of available technology (NAC 703.423(10)(a));
- (b) The nature of various alternatives (NAC 703.423(10)(b); and
- (c) The economics of various alternatives (NAC 703.423(10)(c)

The BLM will conduct environmental review of the project, which review is expected to evaluate alternatives to the proposed project route. An amended UEPA application will be filed pursuant to NRS 704.870(2)(b), containing the information required by this section, upon issuance of a final environmental document by the BLM.

#### **11. Facility Conforms to Local Laws**

An explanation of how the location of the proposed utility facility conforms to applicable state and local laws and regulations, including a list of all permits, licenses and approvals required by federal, state and local statutes, regulations and ordinances. The explanation must include a list that indicates:

- (a) All permits, licenses, and approvals the applicant has obtained, including copies thereof (NAC 703.423(11)(a)); and

See table in part (b) below. The applicant is in the process of obtaining many of these approvals, and copies will be provided as part of later submittal(s).

- (b) All permits, licenses, and approvals the applicant is in the process of obtaining to commence construction of the proposed utility facility. The applicant must provide an estimated timeline for obtaining these permits, licenses and approvals (NAC 703.423(11)(b)).

At this time, the following permits, licenses, and approvals are being reviewed to determine applicability for the proposed project.

Permit/Approval	Agency	Expected Completion Timeline
NEPA EA, ROD, FONSI, ROW Permit	Bureau of Land Management	May 2012
National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Compliance	Bureau of Land Management	BLM is consulting with SHPO as needed. Results to be reflected in the EA. Expected completion by May 2012.
Endangered Species Act Section 7 Compliance	Bureau of Land Management	BLM is consulting with USFWS as needed. Results to be reflected in the EA. Expected completion by May 2012.
Project Coordination for Disturbance to Wildlife Habitat	Nevada Department of Wildlife	NDOW is coordinating with BLM as a cooperating agency on the EA. Expected completion by May 2012.
Utility Environmental Protection Act Permit (UEPA) – Permit to Construct	Public Utilities Commission of Nevada	Initial application January 2012 Requested permit issuance May/June 2012.
NPDES Stormwater Permit - Construction	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	May 2012
Temporary Working in Waterways Permit	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	May 2012
Air Emissions, Surface Disturbance Permit(s)	Nevada Department of Conservation	May 2012
Building Permit, ROW Encroachment Permit	Elko County Building & Safety Division	May 2012
Conditional Use Permit	Elko County Planning Division	May 2012

## 12. Public Interest

An explanation of how the proposed utility facility will serve the public interest, including:

- (a) The economic benefits that the proposed utility facility will bring to the applicant and this State (NAC 703.423(12)(a)):

The proposed project will provide benefits to the mine in the form of increased energy efficiency, emissions reductions and economic advantages to the Goldstrike mining operations. With the availability of natural gas, the Goldstrike Mine will have the opportunity to convert its stationary equipment from propane and petroleum based fuels to natural gas, using the most current combustion technology. The availability of natural gas is beneficial for a number of reasons, including 1) an increase in overall energy efficiency through a more complete combustion of fuels, requiring less overall fuel to produce the same amount of energy, 2) lower emissions levels

than the petroleum based fuels currently in use, and 3) cost savings, given current and projected future pricing for natural gas and propane or other petroleum fuels. The aforesaid benefits and fuel cost savings are the primary drivers to the economic feasibility of the project. At this writing, the wholesale cost of the petroleum based fuels currently powering the stationary equipment at the Goldstrike Mine is many times that of the wholesale cost of natural gas on the Ruby Pipeline. The fuel cost savings will provide opportunities for the mine to invest in additional employees and infrastructure. Additional discussion of project benefits will be provided in supplemental application materials following completion of BLM's environmental review of the project.

- (b) The nature of the probable effect on the environment in this State if the proposed utility facility is constructed (NAC 703.423(12)(b)):

The BLM will conduct environmental review of the project. An amended UEPA application will be filed pursuant to NRS 704.870(2)(b), containing the information required by this section, upon issuance of a final environmental document by the BLM.

- (c) The nature of the probable effect on the public health, safety and welfare of the residents in this State if the proposed utility facility is constructed (NAC 703.423(12)(c)); and

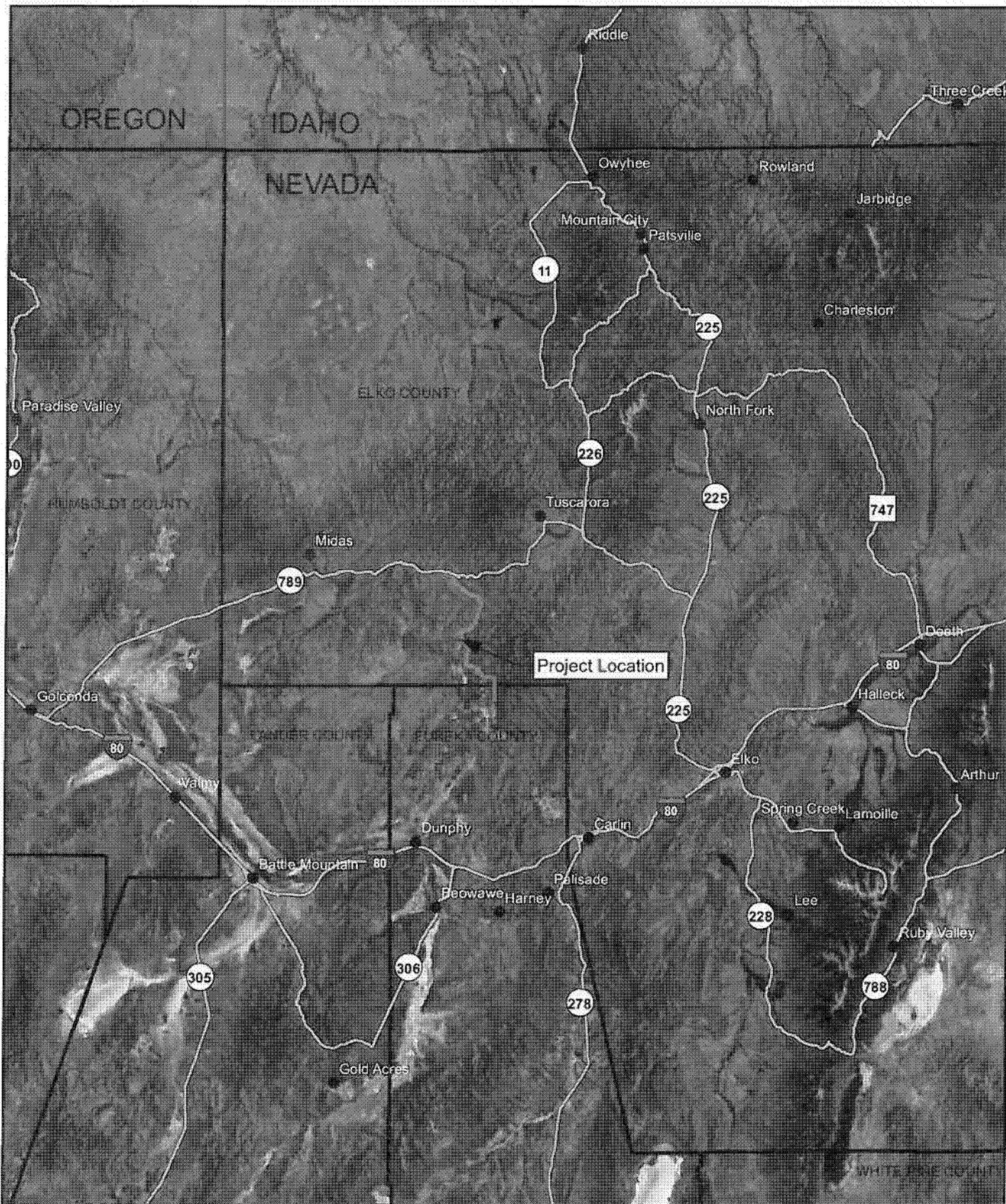
The proposed project will provide benefits to public health, safety and welfare in the form of increased energy efficiency, reduced emissions, and fuel cost savings to the mine, which will provide opportunities for the mine to invest in additional employees and infrastructure. Additional discussion of such benefits will be provided in supplemental application materials following completion of BLM's environmental review of the project.

- (d) The interstate benefits expected to be achieved by the proposed electric transmission facility in this State, if applicable (NAC 703.423(12)(d)).

Not applicable

**ATTACHMENT A**

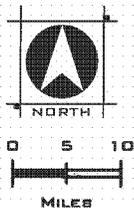
**REGIONAL MAP**



**REGIONAL MAP  
NORTH ELKO PIPELINE  
JANUARY, 2012**

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTES:  
BACKGROUND: ESRI  
COUNTIES/ROADS: ESRI



**PRELIMINARY**

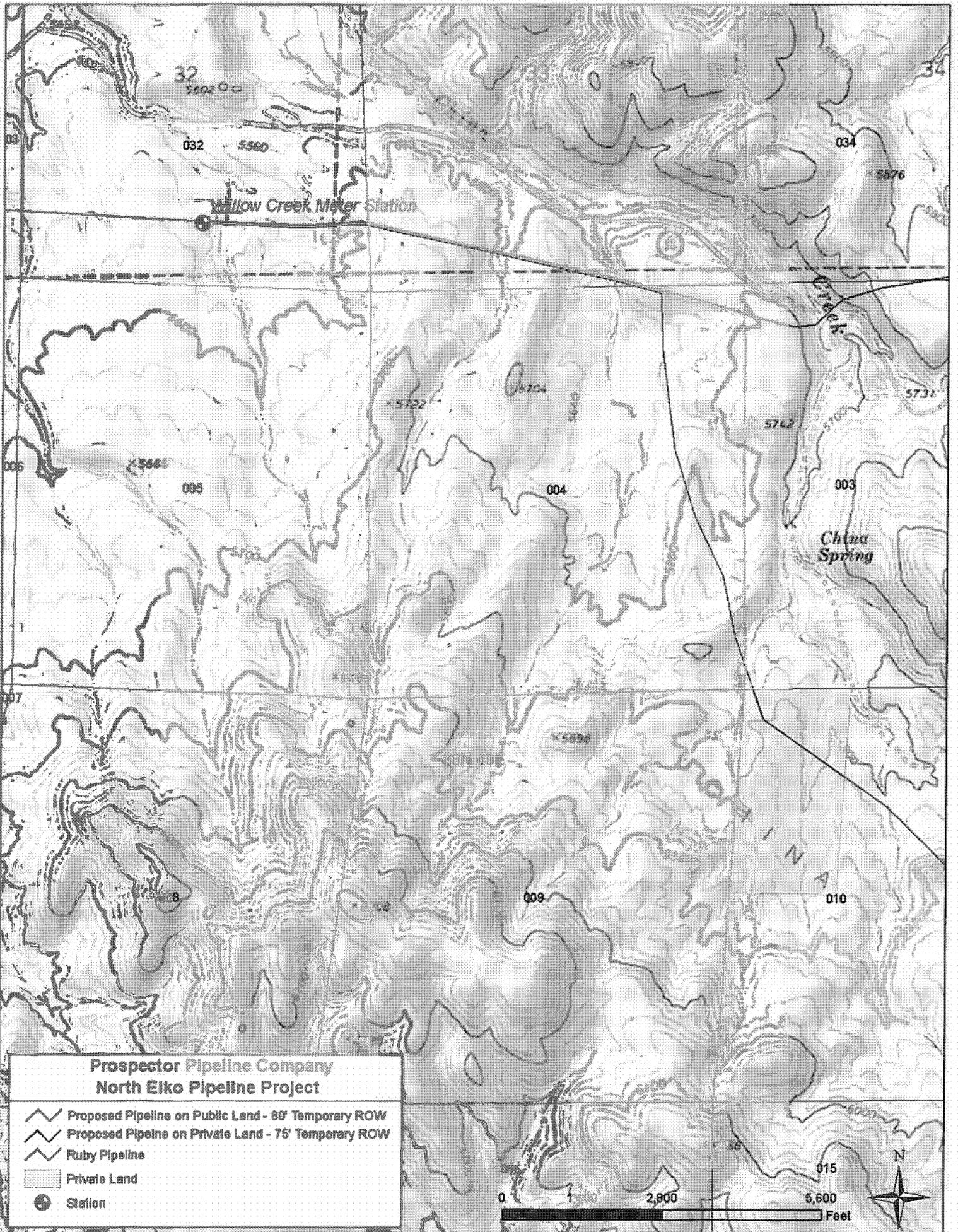


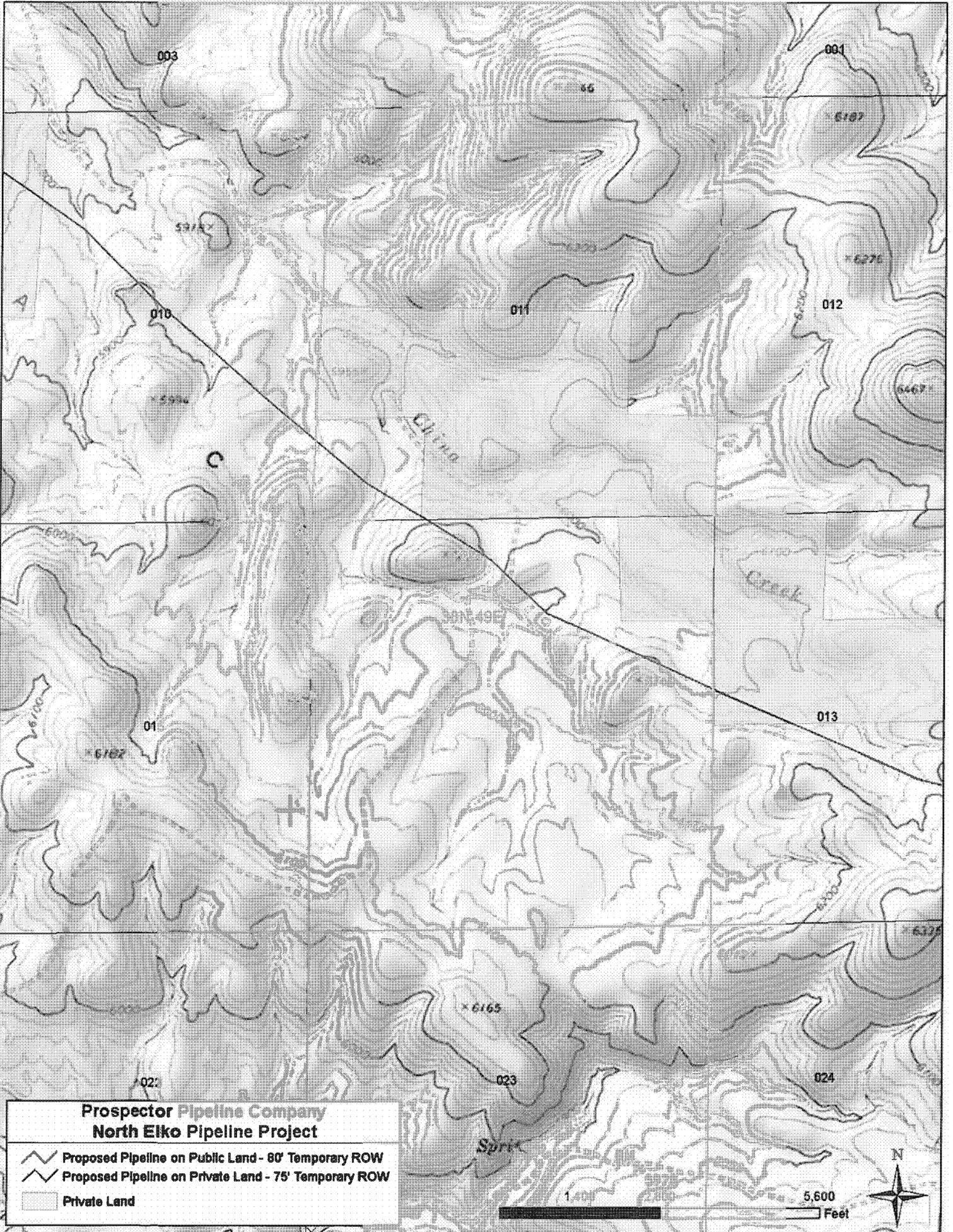
**WOOD RODGERS**  
DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE DESIGN SOLUTIONS  
8440 Reno Corporate Drive Tel: 775.823.4068  
Reno, NV 89511 Fax: 775.823.4068

**ATTACHMENT B**

**SITE MAPS**

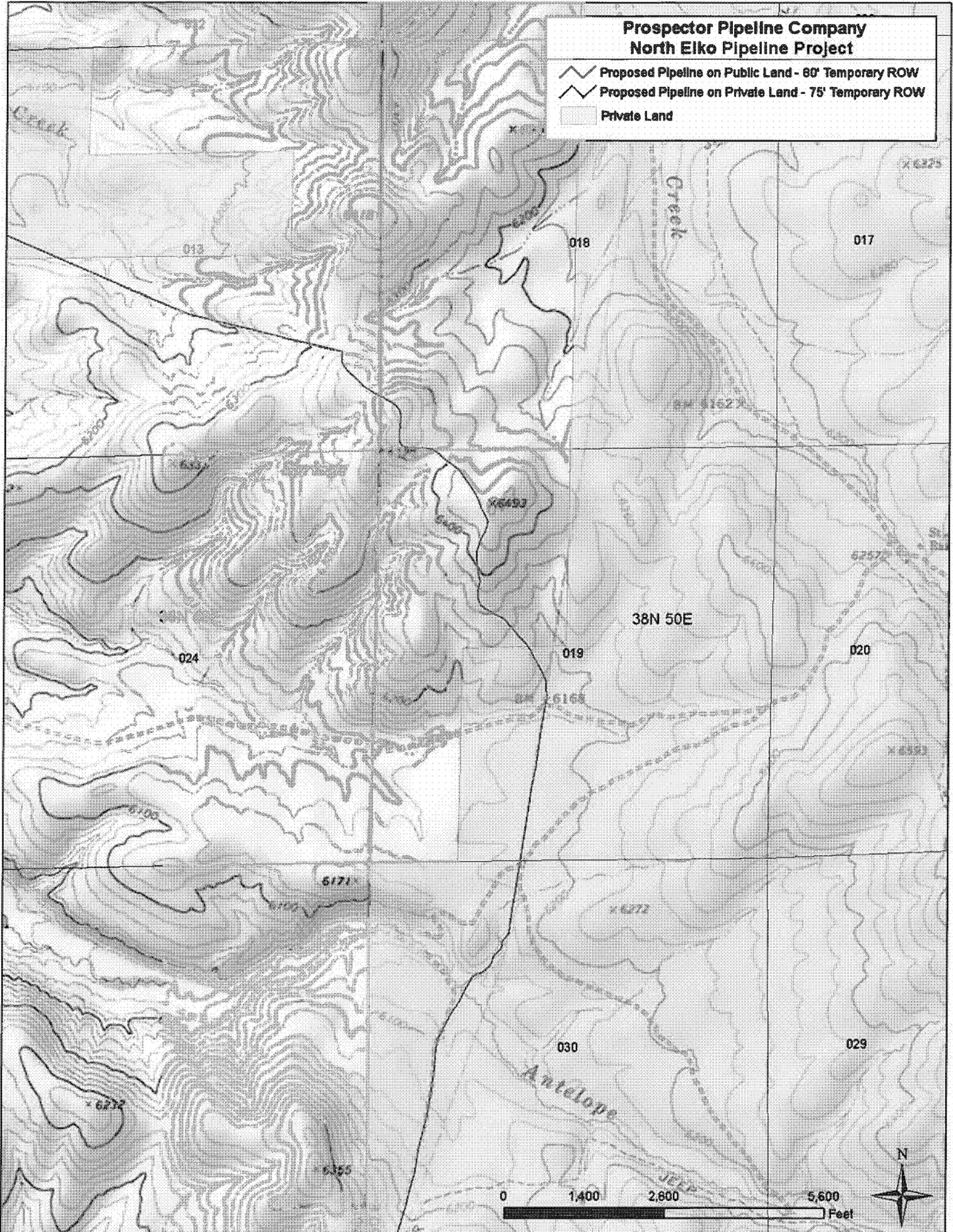






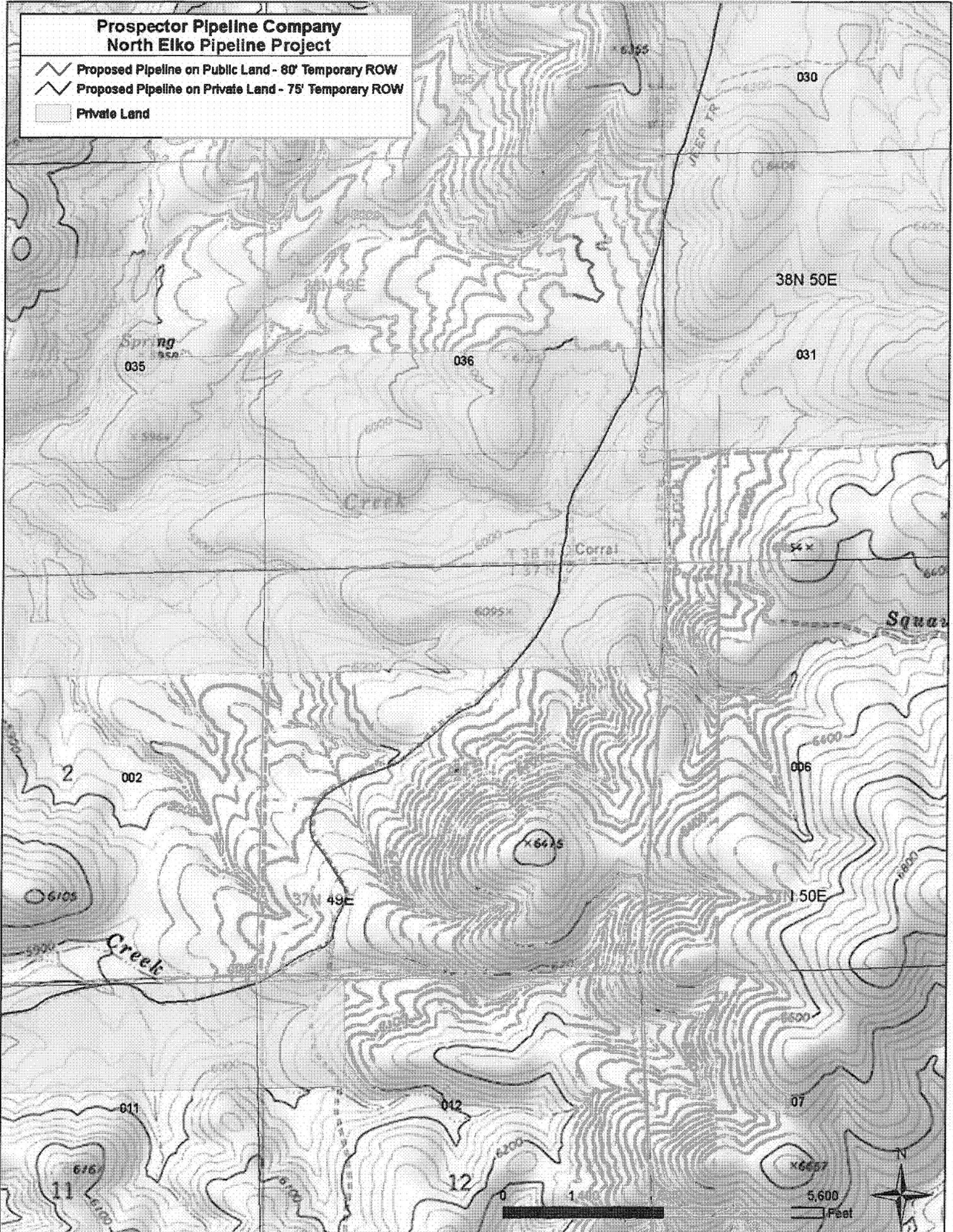
**Prospector Pipeline Company  
North Elko Pipeline Project**

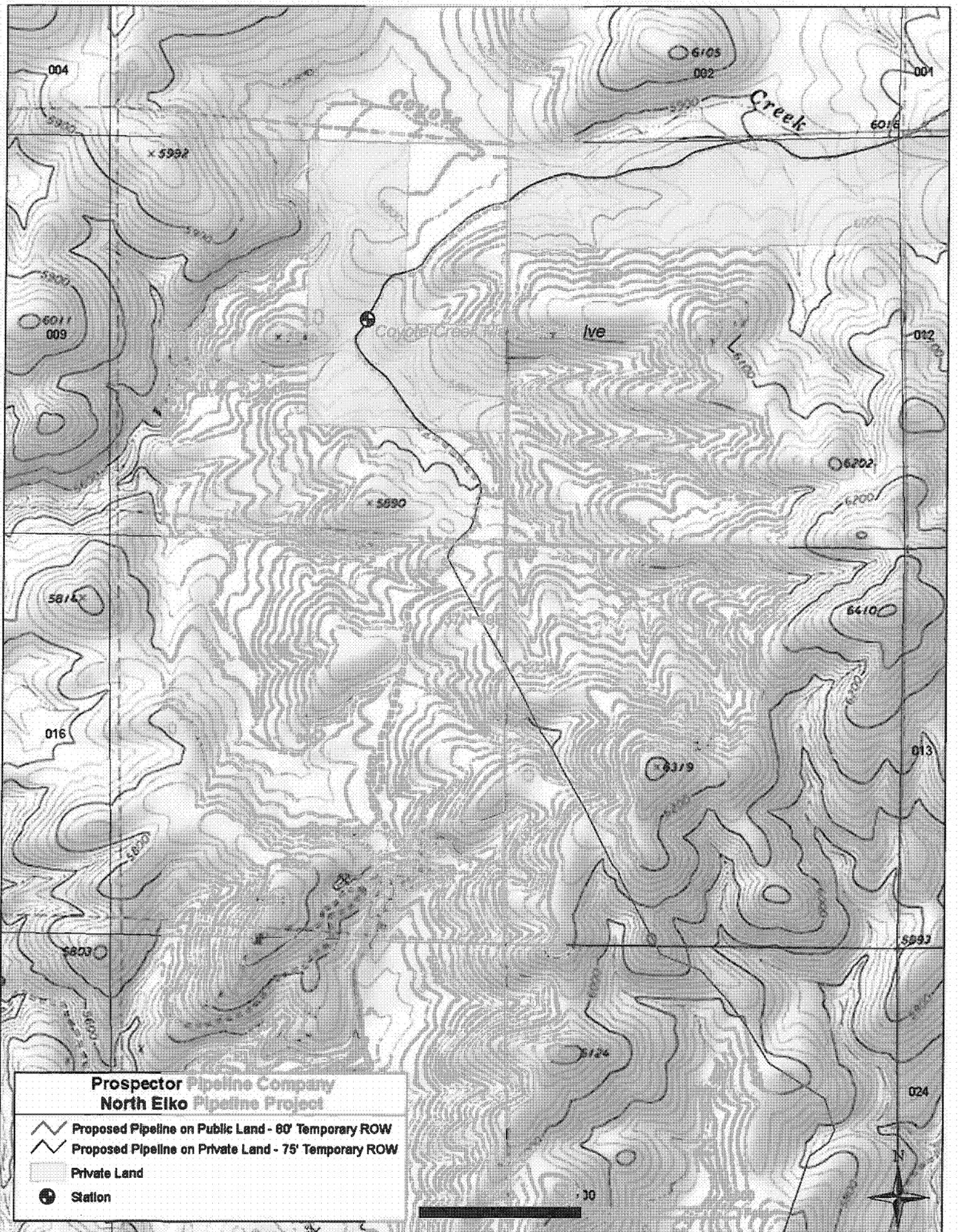
-  Proposed Pipeline on Public Land - 60' Temporary ROW
-  Proposed Pipeline on Private Land - 75' Temporary ROW
-  Private Land



**Prospector Pipeline Company  
North Elko Pipeline Project**

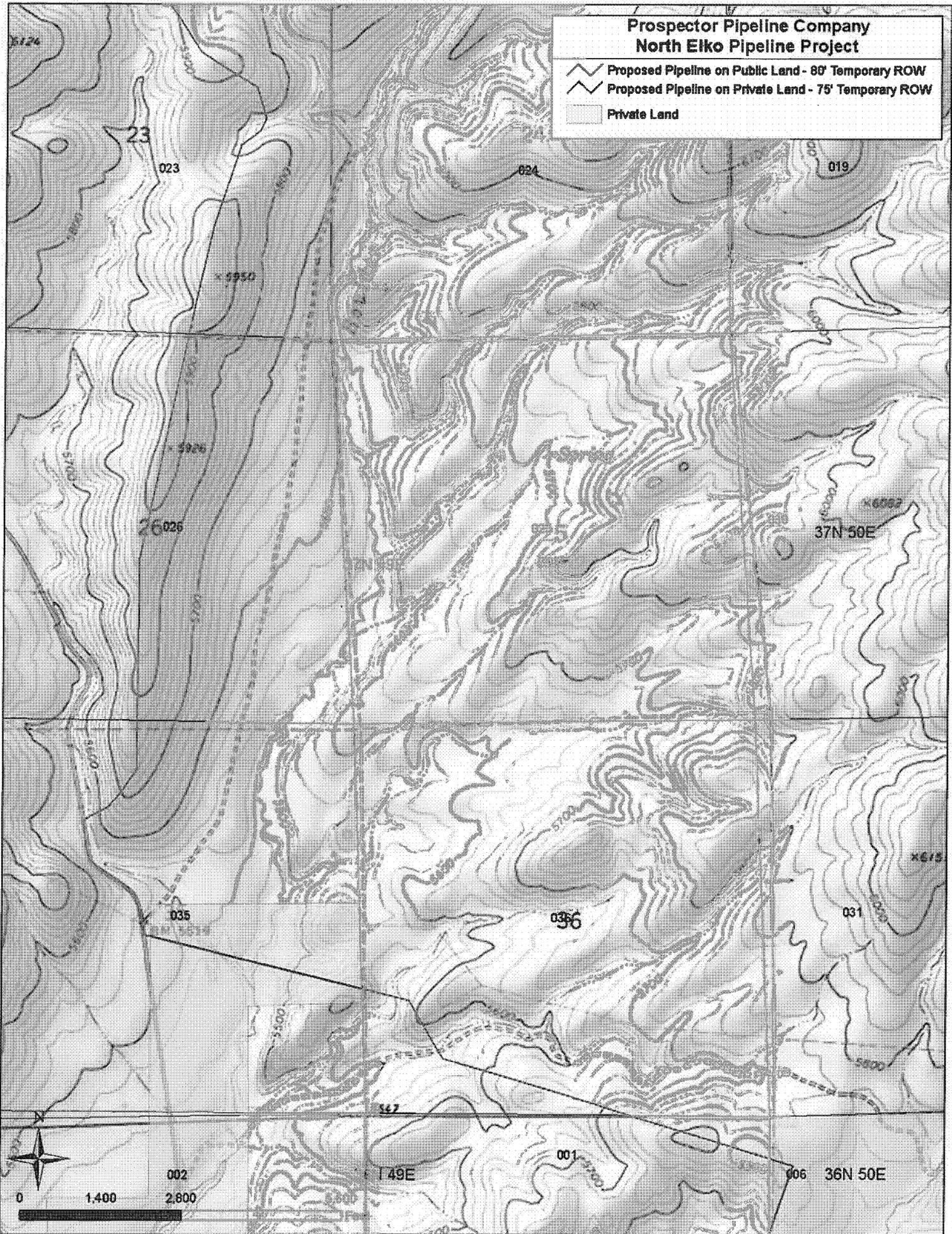
-  Proposed Pipeline on Public Land - 80' Temporary ROW
-  Proposed Pipeline on Private Land - 75' Temporary ROW
-  Private Land

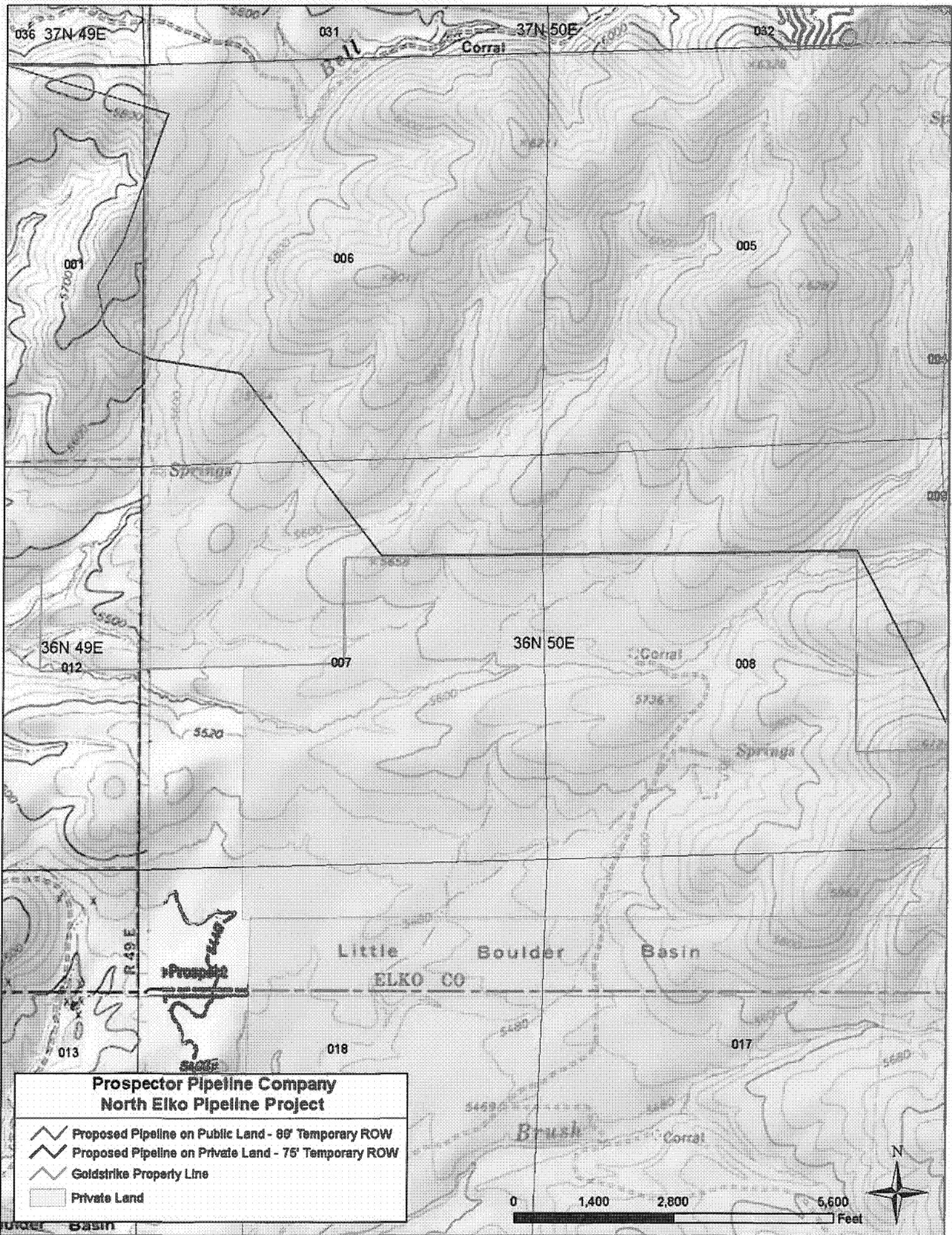




**Prospector Pipeline Company  
North Elko Pipeline Project**

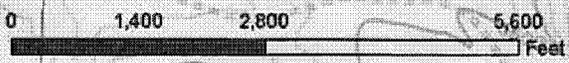
-  Proposed Pipeline on Public Land - 80' Temporary ROW
-  Proposed Pipeline on Private Land - 75' Temporary ROW
-  Private Land

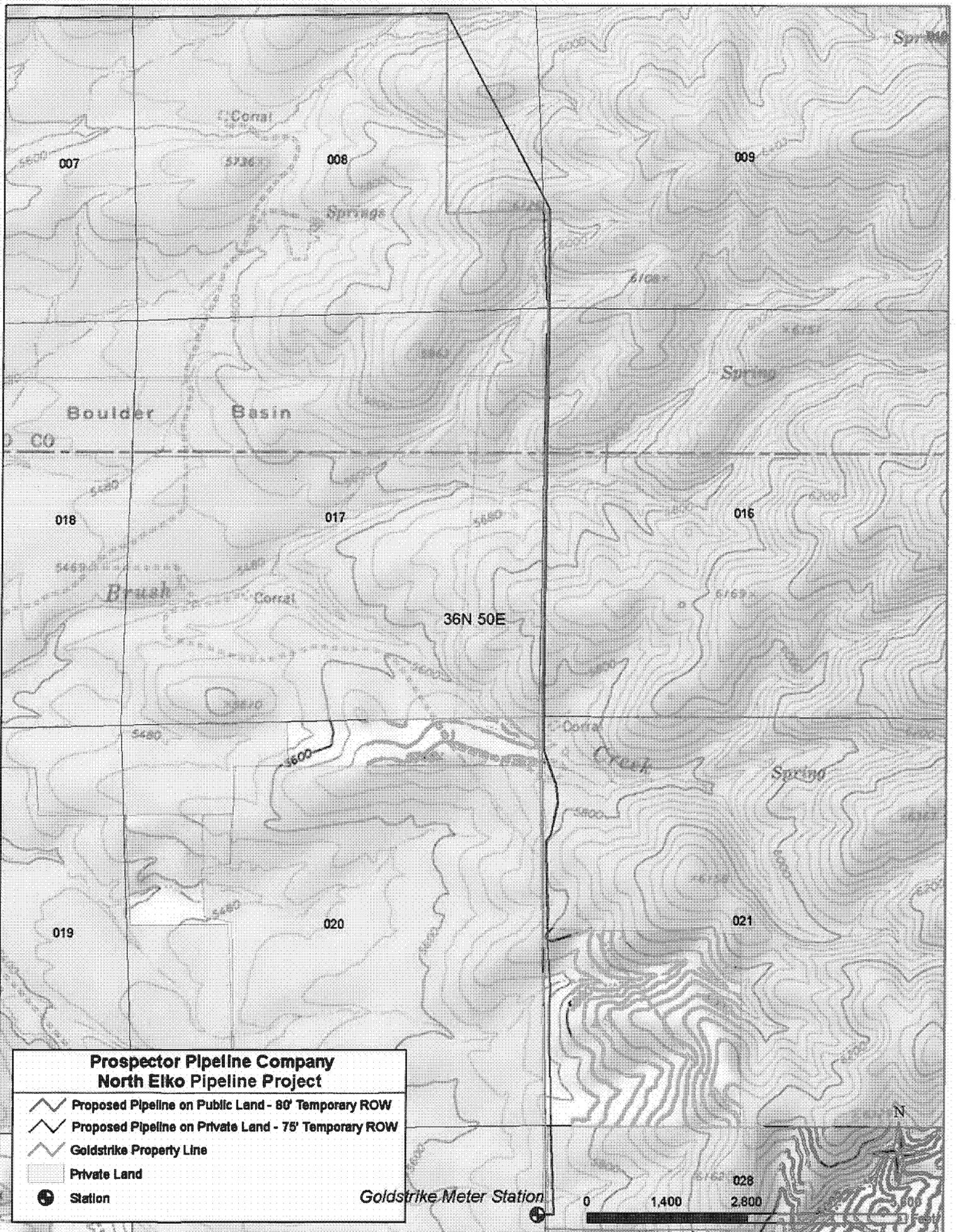




**Prospector Pipeline Company  
North Elko Pipeline Project**

-  Proposed Pipeline on Public Land - 80' Temporary ROW
-  Proposed Pipeline on Private Land - 75' Temporary ROW
-  Goldstrike Property Line
-  Private Land





**ATTACHMENT C**

**PROJECT PLANS**

**IN PROGRESS**

**ATTACHMENT D**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**  
**IN PROGRESS**

**ATTACHMENT E**  
**ROUTE ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**  
**IN PROGRESS**

**ATTACHMENT F**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**AND**  
**PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

# ELKO DAILY FREE PRESS

www.elkodaily.com

3720 Idaho Street • Elko, Nevada 89801

## Affidavit of Publication

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA, NOTICE OF INITIAL APPLICATION.**

Prospector Pipeline Company ("Prospector") intends to submit with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada ("Commission") an Initial Application for a permit to construct approximately 24 miles of new underground natural gas pipeline and associated facilities to be located in Elko and Eureka Counties, Nevada under the provisions of the Utility Environmental Protection Act ("UEPA") (NRS 704.820-890; NAC 703.415-427.)

**NOTICE OF INITIAL APPLICATION FOR UTILITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT NATURAL GAS PIPELINE IN EUREKA AND ELKO COUNTIES.**

Notice is hereby given to persons residing in the municipalities in which any portion of the pipeline is to be located. Prospector proposes to construct a privately owned and operated approximately 24-mile natural gas pipeline on a combination of public and private lands located approximately 35 miles northwest of the City of Elko, in the vicinity of T 36-36N R 49E; T 36N R 50E; T 36N R 50E; M.D.B.&M. with the majority of the pipeline to be located in Elko County. The UEPA application will be filed under and governed by the provisions of the UEPA. Prospector is concurrently pursuing a right of way grant from the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), and an amended application will be filed with the Commission following completion of environmental analysis by the BLM. Protests and written comments about the granting of the UEPA application must be filed with the Commission as provided by law. Dated this 12th day of January, 2012.

Jan 12

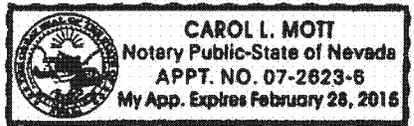
I, Dorothy Vance, business manager of the Elko Daily Free Press, published daily at Elko, Nevada, do solemnly swear that a copy of PIPELINE COMPANY as per clipping attached, was published January 12, 2012, in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper, with general circulation of Elko and Lander counties, and not in any supplement thereof for one week in the issue dated January 12, 2012.

*Dorothy Vance*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me, on Jan 12 2012.

*Carol Mott*  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public:



# EUREKA SENTINEL

Box 150820, Ely, Nevada 89315  
(775) 289-4491

# INVOICE Affidavit of Publication

Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF NEVADA )  
COUNTY OF EUREKA ) ss.

Linda Cottrell, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she/he is a legal clerk of the THE EUREKA SENTINEL, a newspaper published in the State of Nevada, general circulation in Eureka County, of which a copy is hereto attached, was published in said newspaper for the full required period of

1 Issue

commencing on Jan 12, 2012

and ending on \_\_\_\_\_  
both days inclusive.

Signed Linda Cottrell

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16<sup>th</sup>  
day of January, 20 12

Kenneth D. Kliever

Notary Public



### BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA, NOTICE OF INITIAL APPLICATION.

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### NOTICE OF INITIAL APPLICATION FOR UTILITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT NATURAL GAS PIPELINE IN EUREKA AND ELKO COUNTIES.

Notice is hereby given to persons residing in the municipalities in which any portion of the pipeline is to be located. Prospector proposes to construct a privately owned and operated approximately 24-mile natural gas pipeline on a combination of public and private lands located approximately 35 miles northwest of the City of Elko, in the vicinity of T 36-39N R 49E; T 36N R 50E; T 38N R 50E; M.D.B.&M, with the majority of the pipeline to be located in Elko County. The UEPA application will be filed under and governed by the provisions of the UEPA. Prospector is concurrently pursuing a right of way grant from the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), and an amended application will be filed with the Commission following completion of environmental analysis by the BLM. Protests and written comments about the granting of the UEPA application must be filed with the Commission as provided by law. Dated this 12th day of January, 2012.

Publish: The Eureka Sentinel, Jan 12, 2012.

### STATEMENT:

Date	Amt.	Cr.	Bal.
1-16-12	56.00		

*AD/CC*

**ATTACHMENT G**  
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am a resident of the State of Nevada, over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to the within application. My business address is Downey Brand LLP, 427 West Plumb Lane, Reno, NV 89509. On January 20, 2012, I served the attached document(s):

### UTILITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT PERMIT APPLICATION

- BY FAX:** by transmitting via facsimile the document(s) listed above to the fax number(s) set forth below on this date before 5:00 p.m.
- BY HAND:** by personally delivering the document(s) listed above to the person(s) at the address(es) set forth below.
- BY MAIL:** by placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States mail at Reno, Nevada addressed as set forth below.
- BY OVERNIGHT MAIL:** by causing document(s) to be picked up by an overnight delivery service company for delivery to the addressee(s) on the next business day.
- BY PERSONAL DELIVERY:** by causing personal delivery by **RENO/CARSON MESSENGER SERVICE** of the document(s) listed above to the person(s) at the address(es) set forth below.

Clerk  
Elko County  
State of Nevada  
571 Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801

Clerk  
Eureka County  
State of Nevada  
P. O. box 677  
Eureka, Nevada 89316

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001  
Carson City, NV 89701-5249

I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the above is true and correct.

Executed on January 20, 2012, at Reno, Nevada.

  
\_\_\_\_\_