2.4 REGIONAL HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, SCENIC, CULTURAL AND NATIONAL LANDMARKS

Archaeological and paleontological clearance was provided to the Irigaray project by the Wyoming State Archaeologist in 1977. The Irigaray area is of a relatively small size, and did not support any archaeological sites. There is one historic marker, Fort Reno, six miles to the southwest of Irigaray. The State Historic Preservation office has indicated that a site called Reno Cantonment located10 miles southwest of Irigaray, is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Archaeological and paleontological investigations were conducted on portions of the Christensen Ranch permit area during the fall of 1986. These investigations included a Class III Historical Cultural Resource Inventory, a Class III Prehistoric Cultural Resource Inventory and an Inventory of Paleontological Resources, all covering 7,082 acres or 52 percent of the permit area. Detailed results of these studies are provided in Appendix D2 Historical Cultural Resources, Appendix D3A Prehistoric Cultural Resources and Appendix D3B, Paleontological Resources of the Christensen Ranch permit application.

Two historic sites, 61 prehistoric sites and five sites with both prehistoric and historic components were evaluated. Six historic and 55 prehistoric isolates were recorded. None of the 68 sites was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Cultural resource clearance was recommended for these sites. There were three isolated paleontological specimens recorded. They were bone fragments, the only identifiable one appearing to be the pelvic bone of an amphibian. Because of the limited surface outcropping of potential fossil-bearing geologic formations and the limited disturbances associated with in-situ mining, the surveyor concluded that potential impacts to paleontological resources on the 7,082 acre survey would be minimal, if any.

Archaeological clearance for the Christensen Ranch project area was provided by the State of Wyoming and BLM in 1988, with the exception of two sites. When the Christensen Ranch area was amended into the Permit to Mine No. 478, the DEQ added a condition to the permit which stated that "no surface disturbing activities could take place within 100 feet of archaeological sites 48CA533 and 48CA534 without a detailed mitigation plan". These two sites are located in the North Prong geographical portion (northeast section) of the Christensen Ranch permit area. Prior to development of Mine Units 6 and 7 within the North Prong area, additional cultural resource investigations were completed for these two sites in July and August, 1995. Findings and recommendations for the sites were that site 48CA533 should be reduced in size, with avoidance of an approximate 288 square meter area with potential for buried cultural materials; and that site 48CA534 be cleared for development as no cultural materials remained. These recommendations were made to the BLM, the surface landowner, as the mitigation plan for these two sites prior to

development. After BLM approval of the mitigation plan (letter to WDEQ/LQD dated December 14, 1995) and SHPO concurrence, a revision to the DEQ permit condition regarding these two sites was requested by COGEMA in a letter to LQD dated March 4, 1996. LQD responded in a letter dated March 13, 1996, that the permit condition concerning mitigation of the sites had been fulfilled. Site 48CA533 remains isolated from any potential disturbance by an exclusionary fence. COGEMA will continue to avoid any disturbance of Site 48CA533.

The 7,082 acres surveyed at Christensen Ranch constitute approximately 52 percent of the permit area. The remaining 48 percent of the surface of the permit area is located on private land that was not surveyed during the 1986 inventory at the landowner's request. If previously unrecorded cultural materials are encountered during construction or operations of the facility, COGEMA will report the findings to appropriate regulatory authorities and take action to prevent adverse impacts to the resources whether they are located on previously surveyed lands or un-inventoried lands. A compromise will be worked out at that time between the landowner, COGEMA and the regulatory authorities to evaluate the significance of the materials and make recommendations for its disposition.

There are no known architectural resources in the area. The Pumpkin Buttes are themselves natural landmarks of scenic and cultural value which will be undisturbed by the proposed in-situ mining operation.

THIS PAGE IS AN OVERSIZED DRAWING OR FIGURE,

THAT CAN BE VIEWED AT THE RECORD TITLED:

DRAWING NO. FIGURE 3.3, "CHRISTENSEN RANCH AREA FACILITIES LOCATION MAP PERMIT TO MINE #478"

WITHIN THIS PACKAGE... OR BY SEARCHING USING THE DOCUMENT/REPORT NO. FIGURE 3.3

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