

Decision Record

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

,

This page intentionally
left blank

Table of Contents

- 1. Decision Record: Environmental Assessment WY-050–EA13–85: Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P. Madden Deep Unit Moore Hill SWD Station to Dolis No. 1–35 SWD Well Pipeline Project 1**
 - 1.1. Compliance 1
 - 1.2. Selected Action 1
 - 1.3. Compliance with NEPA: 1
 - 1.4. Public Involvement: 1
 - 1.5. Rationale: 2
 - 1.6. Appeal or Protest Opportunities: 3
 - 1.7. Authorizing Official: 3

This page intentionally
left blank

**Chapter 1. Decision Record: Environmental
Assessment WY-050–EA13–85: Burlington
Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P.
Madden Deep Unit Moore Hill SWD Station
to Dolis No. 1–35 SWD Well Pipeline Project**

This page intentionally
left blank

1.1. Compliance

Current policies for development and land use decisions within this area are contained in the *Lander Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) EIS* (BLM, 2013) and the *Lander Resource Area RMP Record of Decision (ROD)* [BLM, 2013]. The 2013 RMP allows for exploration and development of oil and gas subject to Controlled Surface Use and Timing Limitation Stipulations.

1.2. Selected Action

Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P. (Burlington) filed a Sundry Notice with the Bureau of Land Management, Lander Field Office. The Sundry Notice for the pipeline was received on June 3, 2013. The specific proposal is to install/bury a pipeline located in Section 31, Township 39 North, Range 90 West, and Sections 35 and 36, Township 39 North, Range 91 West on BLM Federal oil and gas lease WYW-2592. The Sundry Notice includes a proposal to install approximately 10,746 feet (3000 feet BLM) of pipeline from the proposed facility to the Dolis No. 1-35 SWD well.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for the Moneta Divide Natural Gas Project in order to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated the expanded natural gas development that was proposed by the operators of the three units. This project was originally proposed as the Gun Barrel, Madden Deep, and Iron Horse Unit (GMI) Natural Gas Project EIS. BLM allows for continued exploration and some development activities on federal surface and minerals as authorized under the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations and 40 CFR 1506.1. An Interim Drilling Plan (IDP) for the GMI Project area was developed according to these Regulations and additional criteria, with the purpose of establishing guidelines for drilling and development within the GMI Project area boundary. This project is located within this boundary and BLM is applying Conditions of Approval to the Sundry Notices to conform within the scope of the Moneta Divide (GMI) EIS analysis, while also preventing impacts to resources that could limit the range of alternatives within the Moneta Divide Natural Gas EIS.

1.3. Compliance with NEPA:

The Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P. Madden Deep Unit Moore Hill SWD Station to Dolis No. 1-35 SWD Well Pipeline Project is a private exploration and development operation of a federal oil and gas lease, which is an integral part of the BLM oil and gas leasing program under the authority of Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended. The United States continues to rely heavily on foreign energy sources. Oil and gas leasing is needed to encourage development of domestic oil and gas reserves to reduce the United States' dependence of foreign energy supplies. The BLM oil and gas program is designed to encourage such development. Therefore, the decision is consistent with national policy.

1.4. Public Involvement:

Scoping is an important part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and is used to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the key issues related to a proposed action (40 CFR 1500.7). The scoping process can involve federal, state, and local

government agencies, resource specialists, industry representatives, local interest groups, and members of the public. Scoping is an interdisciplinary process.

The Sundry Notice for the pipeline was received by the Lander Field Office on June 3, 2013. Staff specialists reviewed the proposal and identified impacts and appropriate mitigation measures. It was determined that the nature of the action is routine and that a public notice session will not be necessary. The application was considered technically and administratively complete on August 29, 2013.

1.5. Rationale:

Rationale for Decision:

The decision to approve the Proposed Action is based on the following: 1) consistency with resource management plan and land use plan; 2) national policy; 3) agency statutory requirements; 4) relevant resource and economic issues; 5) application of measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts; 6) finding of no significant impact; and 7) public comments.

1. Consistency with Resource Management Plan and Land Use Plan

Current policies for development and land use decisions within this area are contained in the *Lander Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) EIS* (BLM, 2013) and the *Lander Resource Area RMP Record of Decision (ROD)* [BLM, 2013]. The 2013 RMP allows for exploration and development of oil and gas subject to Controlled Surface Use and Timing Limitation Stipulations.

2. National Policy

The Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P. Madden Deep Unit Moore Hill SWD Station to Dolis No. 1-35 SWD Well Pipeline Project is a private exploration and development operation of a federal oil and gas lease, which is an integral part of the BLM oil and gas leasing program under the authority of Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended. The United States continues to rely heavily on foreign energy sources. Oil and gas leasing is needed to encourage development of domestic oil and gas reserves to reduce the United States' dependence of foreign energy supplies. The BLM oil and gas program is designed to encourage such development. Therefore, the decision is consistent with national policy.

3. Agency Statutory Requirements

The decision is consistent with all federal, state, and county authorizing actions required to implement as the Proposed Action. All pertinent statutory requirements applicable to this proposal were considered including informal consultation and formal conferencing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Cultural surveys and compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be completed prior to approval of permits for individual components.

4. Relevant Resource and Economic Issues

Potential environmental impacts from the Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P. Madden Deep Unit Moore Hill SWD Station to Dolis No. 1-35 SWD Well Pipeline Project

Chapter 1 Decision Record: Environmental Assessment WY-050-EA13-85: Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P. Madden Deep Unit Moore Hill SWD Station to Dolis No. 1-35 SWD Well Pipeline Project Rationale:

proposal to surface and sub-surface resources identified in the Environmental Assessment are all deemed acceptable with mitigation. The economic benefits derived from the implementation of the Proposed Action in the form of continuing employment opportunities, equipment, services, and potential revenues should production occur are considered important.

5. Application of Measures to Avoid or Minimize Environmental Impacts

Federal environmental protection laws, such as the Clean Air Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act, apply to all lands and are included as part of the standard oil and gas lease terms and the terms and conditions of the Sundry Notice documents. The adoption of measures identified in Chapter 2.0 of the Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P. Madden Deep Unit Moore Hill SWD Station to Dolis No. 1-35 SWD Well Pipeline Project EA provides practicable means to avoid or minimize potential environmental impacts. Should conditions warrant, additional, measures could be applied to individual permits subject to additional analysis.

6. Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the analysis contained in the Environmental Assessment for the Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company, L.P. Madden Deep Unit Moore Hill SWD Station to Dolis No. 1-35 SWD Well Pipeline Project EA, along with the implementation of the protection measures, I have determined that the proposed action will not cause any significant impacts on the human, natural, and physical environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

1.6. Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

Under BLM regulations, this decision is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of this decision must include information required under 43 CFR 3165.3(b) (State Director Review), including all supporting documentation. Such a request must be filed in writing with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, no later than 20 business days after this Decision Record is received or considered to have been received. Any party who is adversely affected by the State Director's decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, as provided in 43 CFR 3165.4.

1.7. Authorizing Official:

Field Manager, Lander Field Office, Richard VanderVoet

Date

Attachment: EA No. WY-050-EA13-85