

Environmental Assessment, FONSI, and DR Form Rawlins Field Office

WYW-166103

WYW-166104

WYW-166148

EA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-WY-030-2009-0012-EA Right-of-Way (ROW) Number/s: WYW-166148

Proposed Action Title: Catalina POD "C" (POD "C") natural gas, produced water, and electrical power corridor.

Location of Proposed Action: T. 17 N., R. 91 W., 6th P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming
Section 34: Lots 1, 2, 7, 11, 12;

Applicant: Double Eagle Petroleum Company (Double Eagle)

Conformance with Land Use Plan

This proposed action is in conformance with the Great Divide RMP that was approved on November 8, 1990. The plan was reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms to the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.3. Development of oil and gas reserves is in conformance with the RMP decision as described in the Minerals Management Decision portion of the document (page 30), and the Lands Management Decision portion of the document (page 15). The development of this project would not affect the achievement of the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (August 1997).

Conformance With Other Plans

The Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project Environmental Impact Statement (AREIS) was written to assess drilling within the Project area. The Record of Decision (ROD) for this action was approved on March 23, 2007. The proposed action is in conformance with this EIS.

Double Eagle's Plan of Development, revised on September 12, 2008, contains a complete description of the natural gas pipeline, produced water pipeline, and electrical power line. The Plan of Development is considered an integral part of this Environmental Assessment (EA) and is incorporated by reference.

Need for Proposed Action

Development of domestic oil and gas reserves will reduce U.S. dependency on foreign supplies. For these particular wells, the production is primarily natural gas, which is an integral part of the energy future in this country. Rights-of-way are needed because a portion of Double Eagle's utility corridor is outside the POD "C" boundary.

Description of Proposed Action

Proposed Action

The proposed actions is to grant three rights-of-way to Double Eagle for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a buried 4" natural gas pipeline (WYW-166103), a buried HDPE produced water pipeline (WYW-166104), and a buried steel-sheathed 480 volt electrical power line (WYW-166148), all of which would be within the same 30 foot wide utility corridor (corridor). These ROWs would serve the Catalina Unit 44-33 and Catalina Unit 22-34 CBNG wells to delivery electrical power to the wells and transport natural gas and produced water to the POD "C" Central Delivery Point. Both wells are located within the POD "C" boundary. Only the portions of the corridor outside the POD "C" boundary were analyzed for this EA. The corridor on Federal lands would be 6,000 feet long, 30' feet wide, and would disturb 4.132 acres of public land. The map provided in the right-of-way grants graphically displays the location of the proposed corridor. Each ROW would be granted 50 feet of width, which is common practice for pipeline ROWs. Each pipeline ROW would encompass 6.887 acres.

The route was chosen to disturb the least amount of area, while at the same time still follow as much existing disturbance as possible and cross Dry Cow Creek at the narrowest point possible.

The location of the proposed pipeline is approximately 8.5 miles northeast of Dad, Wyoming, a place name on Wyoming State Highway 789.

The following narratives summarize elements specific to the proposed action, as shown on the enclosed map.

Construction

The proposed action would disturb approximately 4.132 acres of Federal land.

The proposed installation method for the three utilities would be to brush-hog the route and use a drag plow to rip the pipelines/power line 4 feet into the ground. Where rock is encountered or where soils are not conducive to this method, vegetation cut during brush-hogging would be pushed to the side of the corridor using a motor grader. This path would be approximately 25 feet wide. Some topsoil may be disturbed during this process and would be stockpiled with the removed vegetation. During scraping, care would be taken to preserve the existing root structure to the greatest extent possible. A 3 foot wide by 4 foot deep trench would be dug with a rock saw or excavating machine. Side-boom tractors would be used to install the utilities. The three utilities would be buried in the same trench to minimize disturbance. After the utilities are installed, the trench would be backfilled, the disturbance would be re-contoured as close as possible to the original contour, water control structures would be installed, and reserved top soil would be spread across the disturbance. Care would be taken while spoil and topsoil are replaced to minimize additional disturbance to the existing soils the spoil and topsoil piles were placed on. The disturbance would be reclaimed with a seed mix appropriate to the location.

Abandonment. Prior to abandonment of the utility corridor, Double Eagle would submit a Plan of Abandonment to the authorized officer for approval. All buried utilities would be left in place once the project is complete.

Environmental Impacts

During the environmental review process, reviews for impacts to health and safety, paleontology, recreation, socioeconomics, soils, sub-surface resources, vegetation, visual resources, and wildlife were conducted. These site specific findings are discussed on the attached review documents. A brief discussion on the management of hazardous materials is provided in the sections below.

Wildlife and Fisheries: T&E analysis indicates that there would be a no effect situation as a result of approving the described action provided the timing stipulations below are implemented:

Construction, drilling and other activities potentially disruptive to nesting raptors would be prohibited during the period of Feb 1 to July 31 for the protection of raptor nesting areas.

Surface disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable greater sage-grouse/sharp-tailed grouse identified nesting and early-brood rearing habitat would be avoided from March 1 to July 15. A CSU would apply within ¼ mile of lek perimeter. Human activity would be avoided between 6pm-9am March 1 through May 20 within ¼ mile of lek perimeter.

No construction would block or change the natural course of any drainage, nor would topsoil, waste, or fill material be deposited below high water lines in riparian areas, flood plains, or in natural drainage ways; and the lower edge of soil or other material stockpiles would be located outside active floodplains. All spoils would be placed where they could be retrieved without creating additional surface disturbance and where they would not impede and/or contribute sediment to watershed and drainage flows.

Channel crossings by pipelines would be constructed so that the pipe is buried at least four feet below the channel bottom.

Any exceptions to these requirements must have prior written approval from the authorized officer. Due to limits on the available time of qualified personnel, the unpredictability of wildlife, and future weather conditions, requests for

exceptions to impending wildlife stipulations will only be considered in the event of extraordinary and unavoidable occurrences over which the company has little or no control. Additionally, construction of the pipeline needs to be started in a time frame which would allow for reasonably normal completion prior to the beginning date of wildlife protection stipulations.

Cultural Resources: Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land would be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder would suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery would be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder would be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.

In addition:

The pipelines/utilities would be plowed or ripped into the un-bladed surface, using technology which would not require trenching. If such techniques are infeasible due to safety, terrain, or geology, the surface would be brush-hogged. Where trenching would be required, to every extent possible the vegetation root base would not be disturbed during spoil replacement.

All surface disturbance associated with the natural gas pipeline/electrical power line/produced water pipeline would be restricted to a total width of 100 feet or less.

Hydrological Resources:

The crossing of Dry Cow Creek would be done via directional boring or trenching during low/no flow periods. After trenching, immediate reclamation of disturbed areas would be done to stabilize soils, with two silt fences on each side, reseeding of disturbed areas, and, if needed, use of rip-rap to prevent erosion. A site visit during construction is desired to evaluate the adequacy of reclamation work.

Description of Impacts

Site Specific Impacts

A discussion of the actions generally associated with drilling a well, including the plan of operations, construction of the access road, drilling pad, and pipeline installation, can be located in the AREIS and ROD (Chapter 2: Proposed Action and Alternatives (AREIS); Chapter 4: Analysis of Environments Consequences (AREIS); Appendix A: Project Reclamation Plan (ROD; and Appendix C: Operator-Committed Practices (ROD)).

Hazardous Materials

Double Eagle has stated that there would be no hazardous materials, except for natural gas and produced water, transported across, contained within, or stored upon the ROW.

Double Eagle or any contracted company working for Double Eagle would be required to comply with the *Hazardous Materials Management Plan* provided in the AREIS (Appendix C).

Since the project operations would comply with all applicable federal and state laws concerning hazardous materials, the Hazardous Materials Management Summary for this project, and the operator's Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan, impacts should be minimal.

Air Quality

Air quality, visual resources, noise pollution, wildlife displacement and loss of vegetation are short term impacts. Air quality and noise pollution would be affected during construction and maintenance due to equipment exhaust

and dust, but cumulatively they would be small and immeasurable.

Description of Mitigation Measures

All needed mitigation measures are identified in this EA and are described in detail in the proposed action, the Right-of-Way grant, and Additional Terms and Conditions (Exhibit C).

Residual Impact/Cumulative Impacts

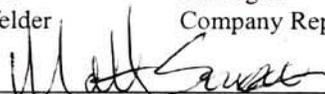
In total, the approval of this project is expected to add approximately **4.132 acres** of additional short-term surface disturbance to the area. This disturbance lies completely on federal land administered by the BLM

Residual impacts would include permanent loss of oil and/or gas reserves should the well become productive.

Cumulative impacts are discussed in the AREIS, (Chapter 5: Cumulative Impacts Analysis), under each resource section. This project would not exceed the cumulative effects analyzed. Please also refer to the above "Remarks" portion of this document regarding directional drilling of wells within this Section.

Persons/Agencies Consulted

Person	Title	Agency
John Ahlbrandt	Natural Resource Specialist	BLM
Rowena M. Trapp	Archaeologist	BLM
Heath Cline	Wildlife Biologist	BLM
Patrick Lionberger	Fisheries Biologist	BLM
Dennis Schult	Hydrologist	BLM
Corey Loveland	Hydrologist	BLM
Noelle Glines-Bovio	Outdoor Recreation Planner	BLM
Mark Newman	Geologist	BLM
Steve Degenfelder	Company Representative	Double Eagle Petroleum Company

Preparer: 
Matt Simons, Realty Specialist

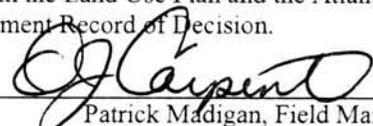
10/27/2008
Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environment impacts. I have determined that the proposed action, with the mitigation measures described below, will not have significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined the proposed project is in conformance with the Great Divide Resource Management Plan approved on November 8, 1990. It is my decision to implement the project with the mitigation measures identified below.

Mitigation Measures/Remarks:

All required mitigation is part of the proposed action and can be located in the right-of-way grant. The proposed action is in conformance with the Land Use Plan and the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision.

Authorized Official: 
Patrick Madigan, Field Manager

OCT 28 2008
Date