

**DECISION RECORD AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT**
**Access to Anadarko's Doty Mountain Fee Well 2006
Program**
No. WY-030-06-EA-192

INTRODUCTION

Anadarko Exploration and Production Company (AEPC), has notified the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office (RFO) that Anadarko proposes to explore for and potentially develop coal bed natural gas (CBNG) resources on private land and the underling fee minerals, in an area just north, west and south of the Doty Mountain Pod. Anadarko has submitted nine Sundries Notices to the Rawlins Field office, BLM, to access private land and fee minerals in sections 11, 15, 21, and 27, T.17N.,R.91W. Anadarko is requesting authorization to construct approximately 4,092 feet of road and about 5,339 feet of gathering systems (water and gas pipelines and electric conduit) on public land to access their proposed coal bed natural gas project on fee land.

This new proposal lies within the Atlantic Rim Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) study area in south-central Wyoming. The Project Area is located within the administrative boundary of the RFO within Carbon County, Wyoming. The project is not one of nine areas proposed for exploration drilling for the purpose of providing information for use in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Project.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, this EA was prepared to analyze impacts associated with approving the construction of access roads and gathering systems on public land to access private land for the exploration of fee minerals (natural gas).

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The environmental assessment (EA) for the Access to Anadarko's Doty Mountain Fee Well 2006 Program, considered three alternatives. The Proposed Action Alternative assessed and disclosed the projected effects of the Companies' proposal as outlined above and detailed in the "Proposed Action" portion of the environmental assessment. Alternative B Approval of less than nine of Anadarko's sundries. And Alternative C, the "No Action" alternative, which assessed the effects of not implementing any portion of the proposal. Under the No Action Alternative, BLM would consider issuing the subject Sundry Notices after the Record of Decision for the Atlantic Rim EIS has been issued.

Based upon the analysis of the potential environmental impacts described in the EA the Authorized Officer has selected the Proposed Action alternative to be implemented.

APPROVED PROJECT COMPONENTS

Construct approximately 4,092 feet of road and about 5,339 feet of gathering systems (water and gas pipelines and electric conduit) on public land in sections 14, 22, and 28 of T.17N., R.91W.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The decision to approve Anadarko's Sundry Notices was based upon the following factors:

1. Consistency with the Great Divide Resource Management Plan
2. National policy
3. Agency statutory requirements
4. Relevant resource and economic considerations
5. Application of measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm
8. Consistency with the purpose and need for action

1. Consistency with Land Use and Resource Management Plans

The proposed action is in conformance with the planning direction developed for this area. The objective for oil and gas management decisions described in the Great Divide Resource Management Plan (1990) is to "provide for leasing, exploration, and development of oil and gas while protecting other resource values."

2. Policy

Wyoming Instruction Memorandum WY-98-036, Rights-of-Ways on Federal Surface and State or Private Minerals, provides Wyoming's policy for approving access to private lands. The IM states BLM has full control over the use of public lands and has some reasonable say as to time, place, and manner of use of the surface. BLM Wyoming's practice is to provide reasonable access to any parcel of non-Federal lands completely surrounded by public lands.

3. Agency Statutory Requirements

The decision is consistent with all federal, state, and county authorizing actions required to implement the proposed action. All pertinent statutory requirements applicable to this proposal were considered.

4. Relevant Resource and Economic Considerations

Environmental impacts from the proposal to resources identified in the EA will be minimized by applying the mitigation and monitoring measures identified in Appendix A of the EA along with the COAs attached to each Sundry Notice. These impacts are not significant. Positive economic benefits are expected from this proposal.

5. Application of Measures to Avoid or Minimize Environmental Harm

Federal environmental protection laws such as The Clean Air Act, The Clean Water Act, and The Historic Preservation Act apply to all lands and are included as part of the standard oil and gas permits. The adoption of the mitigation and monitoring measures identified in Appendix A of the EA, along with the Conditions of Approval attached to each Sundry Notice, represent the best means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

6. Consistency with the Purposes and Need for Action

Domestic natural gas production is an integral part of U.S. energy development and conservation plans, due to its availability and the presence of existing market delivery infrastructure. Domestic production reduces immediate dependence upon foreign sources of energy, and maintains an adequate and stable supply of fuel to maintain economic well-being, industrial production, and national security. The

environmental advantages of burning natural gas are emphasized in the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990.

The Proposed Action would provide access to private lands, thus enabling the Company to exercise existing rights to private minerals within the Project Area to drill for, extract, remove, and market gas products. National mineral leasing policies recognize the statutory right of leaseholders to access private mineral resources to meet continuing national needs and economic demands. Also included is the right of the leaseholders within the Project Area to build and maintain necessary improvements for drilling, producing, and marketing natural gas, in accordance with the appropriate authority.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the *Access to Anadarko's Doty Mountain Fee Well 2006 Program Environmental Assessment* (EA No. WY-030-06-EA-192), with implementation of the protective measures found in Appendix A of that document, I have determined that the impacts from this project will not be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

APPEAL

Under BLM regulation this decision is subject to appeal. Under BLM regulation, 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 within 20 business days of the date this Decision Record is received or considered to have been received.



Field Manager, Rawlins Field Office

6/15/06
Date