

Optional EA, Fonsi, and DR Form

THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS TIERED TO AND REFERENCES THE "Environmental Assessment for the Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project, Blue Sky Pod"

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA NUMBER: WY-030-06-EA-199

BLM Office: Rawlins Field Office

Case Number: WYW-164086

Proposed Action Title: Eight-inch gas pipeline to connect the Sun Dog & Doty Mtn. Pods

Location of Proposed Action:

T. 16 N., R. 91 W., 6th P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming
Section 7: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 8: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 17: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 20: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Applicant: Anadarko E&P Company, LP (Anadarko)

Conformance with Land Use Plan

The proposed action is in conformance with the Great Divide Resource Management Plan (RMP) that was approved on November 8, 1990. The plan was reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5. 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 in 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).

Remarks

The *Environmental Assessment for the Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project, Sun Dog Pod* was written to assess drilling and gas development in the project area. The Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact for this action was approved on December 21, 2001. The proposed action is in conformance with that EA.

Anadarkos' right-of-way grant and terms and conditions, contains a complete description of the pipeline. The Right-of-way grant with the terms and conditions, are considered an integral part of this environmental assessment 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 this particular well, the production is primarily natural gas, considered an integral part of the energy future in this county. In addition to natural gas, a by-product of natural gas production, condensate a light hydrocarbon liquid comparable to gasoline, is produced along with the natural gas.

The proposed action as described in this Environmental Assessment (EA) is to obtain a right-of-way for an eight-inch gas pipeline to transport the produced gas.

Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action is to approve a right-of-way for Anadarko to install an eight-inch gas pipeline from the Sun Dog Compressor to an existing line coming from the Doty Mountain Pod. The holder proposes to construct 12,005 feet of eight-inch gas pipeline in order to transport the produced gas. The pipeline will be placed in the barrow ditch for a portion of the route and then traverse cross country to the tie-in point. The right-of-way is 50-feet wide and will disturb 13.779 acres. All pipeline disturbances will be recontoured and reseeded immediately after installation (*conditions permitting*). The right-of-way falls within a raptor nesting area, greater sage-grouse strutting and nesting area and mountain plover nesting habitat, therefore, construction, drilling, and other activities potentially disruptive to nesting raptors are prohibited during the period of February 1 to July 31 for the protection of raptor nesting areas, avoiding surface disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable greater sage-grouse identified nesting and early-brood rearing habitat between March 1 to July 15, and construction, drilling and other activities are prohibited during the reproductive period of April 10 to July 10 for the protection of nesting plover. The maps and illustrations in the right-of-way graphically display the location and layout of the proposed pipeline location. The right-of-way with the terms and conditions contains a complete description of the proposal, and is considered an integral part of this Environmental Assessment by reference.

The location of the proposed pipeline is approximately 38 miles south of Creston Junction, Wyoming. I-80, Carbon County road 608, and associated oil and gas lease roads would be used as the primary access.

A discussion of the actions generally associated with construction of gas pipelines and mitigation thereof can be located in the *Environmental Assessment for the Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project, Sun Dog Pod*.

The following narratives summarize elements specific to the proposed action.

Environmental Impacts

Critical Element	Affected		Critical Element	Affected	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality		X	T & E Species		X
ACECs		X	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid		X
Cultural Resources		X	Water Quality (surface and ground)		X
Environmental Justice		X	Woodlands/Riparian Zones		X
Farmlands, Prime/Unique		X	Wild & Scenic Rivers		X
Floodplain		X	Wilderness		X
Nat. Amer. Rel. Concerns		X	Invasive, Nonnative Species		X

In addition to the critical elements referenced above, reviews for impacts to health and safety, paleontology, recreation, socioeconomics, soils, subsurface resources, vegetation, visual resources, and wildlife were conducted.

Site specific findings are discussed on the attached review documents. A discussion on the management of hazardous materials is provided in the sections below.

Description of Impacts

A discussion of the actions generally associated with construction of access road(s) and mitigation thereof can be located in the *Environmental Assessment for the Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project, Sun Dog Pod*.

Hazardous Materials

Anadarko has indicated in their right-of-way that no hazardous material as defined will be used, produced, transported, or stored on or within this right-of-way or any of its facilities during construction, operation, maintenance or termination of this right-of-way. The term "hazardous materials" as used here means: 1) any substance, pollutant, or contaminant (regardless of quantity) listed as hazardous under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., and the regulations issued under CERCLA, 2) any hazardous waste as defined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, as amended, and 3) any nuclear or nuclear byproduct as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.

Anadarko or any contracted company working for Anadarko will be required to comply with the Hazardous Materials Management Summary provided in the *Environmental Assessment for the Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project, Sun Dog Pod*.

Impacts to soils, surface and groundwater resources, wildlife, vegetation, and human health, could result from the accidental exposure of hazardous materials. However, 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, no significant impacts area anticipated.

Description of Mitigation Measures

All needed mitigation is part of the proposed action and can be found in the right-of-way grant and the terms and conditions. Residual impacts would include temporary loss of vegetation. The pipeline would remain in place, however the surface disturbance would be reclaimed within two years.

Residual Impacts/Cumulative Impacts:

These impacts are discussed in the *Environmental Assessment for the Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project, Sun Dog Pod*. This project would not exceed the cumulative effects analyzed.

Standard mitigation and reclamation guidelines are also addressed in the EA. All needed mitigation, for that portion of the proposed action on public land, is part of the proposed action.

Since no additional mitigation measures are proposed, no residual impacts other than those discussed above are anticipated.

Persons/Agencies Consulted

Bill Falvey	Wildlife Biologist	BLM
Pamela Murdock	Archaeologist	BLM
Andy Warren	Range Mgmt Specialist	BLM
John Ahlbrandt	Natural Resource Spec.	BLM
Krystal Clair	Outdoor Rec. Planner	BLM
Mark Newman	Geologist	BLM
Bob Yount	Devon Energy Production	

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5/26/06
Date