

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-030-07-EA-051

BLM Office: Rawlins Field Office

Case Number: WYW-164086

Proposed Action Title: Extra work spaces for the Sun Dog Trans-connect pipeline

Location of Proposed Action:

T. 16 N., R. 91 W., 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming  
Section 7: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 17: S $\frac{1}{2}$ 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, Jolly Roger 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 14, 2004. 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 six-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 utilize various extra work spaces for construction of the Sun Dog Trans-connect pipeline. The holder proposes to construct 6 areas along the pipeline route for a total of 0.402 acres. All pipeline disturbances will be recontoured and reseeded immediately after installation (*conditions permitting*). The right-of-way falls within raptor nesting areas, greater sage-grouse strutting and nesting area, and mountain plover potential habitat, therefore, construction, drilling, and other activities are prohibited from February 1 to July 31, avoidance of surface disturbing and disruptive activities in

suitable greater sage-grouse identified nesting and early-brood rearing habitat between March 1 to July 15 is prohibited, and construction, drilling and other activities are prohibited during the reproductive period of April 10 to July 10. The maps and illustrations in the right-of-way graphically display the location and layout of the proposed extra work space locations. 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 drilling a well, including the plan of operations, construction of the access road, drilling pad, and pipeline installation, 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, socioeconomic, 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.

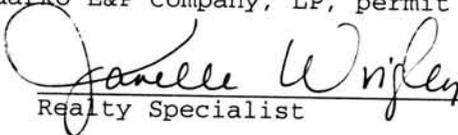
Standard mitigation and reclamation guidelines are also addressed in the EA. All needed mitigation, for that portion of the proposed action on public land, is part of the proposed action.

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

**Persons/Agencies Consulted**

Erik Norelius	Wildlife Biologist	BLM
Kathy Whitson	Archaeologist	BLM
Gary Sundberg	Anadarko E&P Company, LP, permit agent	

Preparer: Janelle Wrigley

  
Realty Specialist

11/17/06  
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 any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that 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 needed 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 proposed action and record of decision for the *Environmental Assessment for the Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project, Sun Dog Pod*.

Authorized Official:

  
Rawlins Field Manager

Date:

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