Optional EA, Fonsi, and DR Form

THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS TIERED TO AND REFERENCES THE "Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project Environmental Impact Statement"

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT **EA NUMBER:** WY-030-08-EA-018

BLM Office: Rawlins Field Office **Case Number:** WYW-116679

Proposed Action Title: Pipeline/Electrical line installation in Sun Dog POD

Location of Proposed Action:

T. 16 N., R. 91 W., 6th P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming
Section 8, 17, 20

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 RMP has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms to 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 Atlantic Rim (AR) Area Natural Gas Field Development Project Environmental Impact Statement (AREIS) was written to assess the potential foreseeable and cumulative effects of drilling operations and associated activities in the Project area. The Record of Decision (ROD) for this project was approved on March 23, 2007. The proposed action is in conformance with the AREIS.

Anadarko's Sundry Notice (application) with the attached Plan of Development and attendant terms and conditions, contain a complete description of the pipelines and electric line, and are considered an integral part of this environmental assessment, and are incorporated by reference. The project is located entirely within a Federal Oil & Gas Unit. No additional rights-of-way are necessary for the proposed action.

Surface disturbance associated with the proposed action is subject to, and counts towards the acreage disturbance cap described and specified in the AREIS/ROD.

Purpose and Need for Proposed 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.

In addition, the proposed action would allow Anadarko, as leaseholder, to exercise lease rights to explore and develop oil & gas resources within the project lease areas. For this project, the production is primarily natural gas and produced water from the coal seams. The proposed action would allow for the transport of these products, and operation within the POD/Federal Unit.

Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action as described in this Environmental Assessment (EA) is for the operator to construct, develop, own, and operate the gas and water pipeline systems and electrical power distribution systems in the Sun Dog Federal Unit WYW-152954X, as described by and limited to this specific proposal. Specifically, the lines would be placed (buried) in a common utility corridor, approximately 8081 feet in length. Anadarko has requested an average corridor disturbance width of 80 feet for the project, however, utilities located in this corridor will overlap to the extent that is feasible and safe, and will likely be considerably less than 80 feet wide. All disturbance would occur within the Sun Dog Federal Unit on BLM administered surface, and total approximately 14.8 acres (assuming an 80 foot disturbance width.)

An on-site inspection of the proposal was conducted on September 20, 2007. Potential impacts to resources were considered and alternate locations considered. As a result of this field inspection, the proposed project was determined to be in the most feasible location to accomplish the stated need and also reduce potential impacts to affected resources. Additional mitigation measures are included as Conditions of Approval.

The location of the proposed development is approximately 28 miles northeast of Baggs, Wyoming, east of Highway 789. The maps and illustrations in the application graphically display the location and layout of the proposed pipeline(s) and electric line.

A discussion of the actions generally associated with drilling a well, including (1) a plan of operations, (2) construction of the access road and drilling pad, and (3) pipeline installation, can be located in the following portions of the AREIS or ROD:

- Chapter 2, *Proposed Action and Alternatives (AREIS)*
- Chapter 4, *Analysis of Environmental Consequences (AREIS)*
- Appendix A, *Project Reclamation Plan (ROD)*
- Appendix C, *Operator-Committed Practices (ROD)*

Mitigation and reclamation measures are described in Chapter 4 and Appendix B of the ROD (*Project Performance-Based Monitoring and Best Management Practices*). The following narratives summarize elements specific to the proposed action for this EA.

No Action Alternative

NEPA regulations require that alternative analyses in NEPA documents "include the alternative of no action" (40 CFR 1502.14(d)). For this analysis, "no action" means that the BLM would reject the proponent's proposal and "the proposed activity would not take place."

Potential Environmental Impacts- Proposed Action Alternative

	Affected			Affected	
Critical Element	Yes	No	Critical Element	Yes	No
Air Quality		X	T & E Species		X
ACEC's		X	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid		X
Cultural Resources	X		Water Quality		X
Prime/Unique Farmlands		X	Wetlands/Riparian Zones		X
Floodplains		X	Wild & Scenic Rivers		X
Native Amer. Rel. Concerns		X	Wilderness		X
Environmental Justice		X	Invasive, Nonnative Species	X	

In addition to the critical elements referenced above, reviews of potential effects upon paleontological-, recreational-, soil-, vegetation-, visual-, and wildlife-resources were conducted. The affected environment and analysis of environmental impacts are discussed in the AREIS to which this EA is tiered.

Halogeton and other noxious weeds are a significant concern for this project area. COAs have been added to control the spread, establishment, and plant community changes associated with weed infestation.

The project falls within a raptor nesting area and greater sage-grouse nesting area. Consequently, 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 nesting raptors. Similarly; construction, drilling and other activities are prohibited during the period of March 1 to July 15 for the protection of nesting sage-grouse.

Class III cultural resources inventory were conducted for the project areas. Archaeological resources identified will be avoided or, as necessary, a monitor will review construction to ensure no cultural artifacts are disturbed. This project is located inside of the two-mile buffer of contributing segments of a historic trail ("Rawlins to Baggs Road"). As a result, SHPO consultation was necessary and a visibility analysis required for those well locations and related infrastructure. The AREIS also required a "Programmatic Agreement" or "Memorandum of Agreement" between the affected parties, i.e. landowner (BLM), operator and SHPO to address the necessary mitigation to minimize impact to the trail view-shed from these wells and associated disturbances. As a result, some additional restrictions or stipulations in the form of COA were added to the Sundry Notice as appropriate.

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 impacts generally associated with drilling projects and associated actions (including pipeline construction) may be found in the AREIS and ROD.

Hazardous Materials

Anadarko has indicated that no hazardous materials would be used during construction or installation of the utility lines. The term "hazardous material" 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.

It is possible that wastes created or transported during implementation of the proposed action (i.e., waste motor oils, hydraulic oil, etc.) could be accidentally released to the environment. The operator will be required to comply with the Hazardous Materials Management Plan provided in Appendix C of the AREIS. Numerous State and Federal rules and regulations also apply that govern the handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances.

Anadarko or any contracted company working for Anadarko will have Material Data Safety Sheets available for all chemicals, compounds, or substances which are used during the course of construction, drilling, completion, and production operations for this project. Additionally, all chemicals will be handled in an appropriate manner to minimize the potential for leaks or spills to the environment.

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 will strictly comply with all applicable federal and state laws concerning hazardous materials, the Hazardous Materials Management Plan for this project, and the operator's Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan, no significant impacts are anticipated.

eclamation

Reclamation typically will commence as soon after pipeline installation as reasonable, or as otherwise applicable or specified in the AREIS/ROD. Appendix A of the ROD contains the reclamation success criteria by which the reclamation status will be judged.

Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts:

Mitigation of potential effects is part of the proposed action, and specific mitigation details can be found in the Plan of Development, including the Conditions of Approval. Residual impacts resulting from the proposed action (by association) would include permanent loss of oil and/or gas reserves should the wells become productive. The pipelines would be evacuated and left buried indefinitely upon completion of the project, but reclamation of the surface would begin as soon as reasonable after construction.

Potential Environmental Impacts- No Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed action would not be authorized. The utility lines would not be installed, and production from the proponent's lease would be dramatically decreased or non existent. Existing development would continue to occupy the project area, along with impacts associated with the existing development.

Residual Impacts/Cumulative Impacts:

The potential residual and cumulative impacts are discussed in the AREIS, Chapter 5, *Cumulative Impacts Analysis.* The proposed action entails the construction of approximately 8081 linear feet of pipelines and electric lines in the Sun Dog Unit.

Standard mitigation guidelines are addressed in the ROD's Appendix A, *Project Reclamation Plan.* Additional mitigation measures are also provided in Appendix B, *Performance-Based Monitoring and Best Management Practices,* and Appendix C, *Operator-Committed Practices.* All needed mitigation 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:

Individual	Discipline	Organization
John Ahlbrandt	Natural Resource Specialist	BLM
Frank Blomquist	Wildlife Biologist	BLM
Nina Trapp	Archaeologist	BLM
Paul Rau	Recreation Planner	BLM
Gary Sundberg	Permitting Agent	Surface Consultants, LLC

Preparer:
Date: John P. Ahlbrandt, 10/16/07
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