

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
For
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-WY-D010-2021-0068-EA
Williams Merna Crossover Pipeline
Rights-of-Way: WYW- 189550 & WYW-190777
6th PM, Sublette County, Wyoming
T. 29-31N., R. 111-113W.

Background

The Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office conducted an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-WY-D010-2021-0068-EA) which analyzed the effects of construction of a right-of way for an 8” natural gas pipeline by Williams Field Services. The right-of-way for said pipeline is 43,556 feet long by 55 feet wide, containing approximately 54.99 acres, with an additional 6.44 acres of temporary workspace, for a grand total of 61.43 acres.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon a review of the *Williams Merna Crossover Pipeline EA* (DOI-BLM-WY-D010-2021-0068-EA) and all other information available to me, I have determined that the Proposed Action with project design features, stipulations, and best management practices, will not result in a significant impact on the human, natural and physical environment, individually or cumulatively. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in the CEQ’s criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27). Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

Potentially Affected Environment (40 CFR 1501.39(b)(1))

The interdisciplinary team evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. Significant effects were not predicted. A complete disclosure of the effects of the project for Wildlife, Soils, and Cultural Resources is contained in section 3 of the *Williams Merna Crossover Pipeline EA*. The environmental analysis did not reveal any effects beyond those already analyzed in the EIS’s which accompanied the Pinedale Resource Management Plan, as amended.

The proposed action would not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed action would not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources. Consultation with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer has been completed in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A cultural inventory review occurred on December 12, 2021. See the Cultural Resources/Native American Religious Concerns for a summary of the review in Attachment 1 of the *Williams Merna Crossover Pipeline EA*.

The Proposed Action has been determined not to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or their habitat. See the wildlife section in section 3.1 in *Williams Merna Crossover Pipeline EA* for details.

Conformance

- The Proposed Action was reviewed for conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of: Lewiston, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado and Wyoming and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota and Worland (Approved: September 21, 2015) (ARMPA).

Design features and site-specific considerations were given of the Proposed Action for which the ARMPA directs the BLM to consider or implement:

- General pre and post-construction designs taken from the applicant plan of development whom incorporated required design features, monitoring plans, reclamation plans and best management practices incorporated from the ARMPA,
- Mitigation guidelines from Appendix F, which were reviewed for this project,
- Reclamation criteria and objectives as identified in Appendix M of the ARMPA,
- Required design features as specified in Appendix C of the ARMPA.

The POD is legally incorporated into the right-of-way grant via stipulation.

Degree of Effects

Consider the following, as appropriate to the specific action. (40 CFR 1501.3 (b)(2))

1. Short and long-term effects of the selected alternative

Implementation of the proposed project would involve standard industry practices among similarly constructed roads and would not pose highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks to the human environment. The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience analyzing similar actions in similar areas and the proponent has experience implementing the Proposed Action. The environmental effects to the human environment are analyzed in the *Williams Merna Crossover Pipeline EA*. There are no predicted effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

Internally, the BLM interdisciplinary team (ID team) reviewed the proposed action to identify potentially affected resources and land uses. No anticipated project specific effects are likely to be considered highly controversial. No unique or appreciable scientific controversy has been identified regarding the effects of the proposed action.

In the short term, 61.43 acres of disturbance will occur along the pipeline route and associated temporary work areas during construction. In the applicant's plan of development, reclamation will occur in areas disturbed during construction, where deemed necessary. The proposed seed mix will be broadcast seeded and manually raked or chained in to promote regrowth. Once reclamation is commenced, the applicant will follow the guidance in Appendix M. The ROW

will not be relinquished until the applicant has met these standards in Appendix M. Locating the project adjacent to existing disturbance and initiating reclamation as soon as possible after the project is completed, the project will meet net conservation gain, by returning the area to productive sage-grouse habitat while providing for more complexity in plant community seral stages and forb abundance during shrub recovery.

2. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

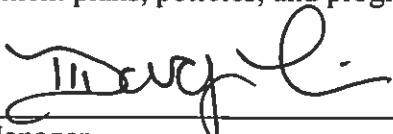
The environmental analysis has considered both beneficial and adverse impacts of the proposed projects. The Proposed Action would include impacts to the resources as described in the *Williams Merna Crossover Pipeline EA*. The analyzed resources were Wildlife, Soils, and Cultural Resources. The analyzed resource topics in the EA would not be significant in the context of direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to resources, see Attachment 1. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the EA

3. The degree to which the Proposed Action affects public health and safety.

The Proposed Action is designed to have minimum impact on public health and safety. See Air Resources, Waste (hazardous or solid), and Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground) in Attachment 1, of the *Williams Merna Crossover Pipeline EA*.

4. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

During preparation of the *Williams Merna Crossover Pipeline EA* the project was scoped internally and looked at other known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. In addition, the project is consistent with applicable land management plans, policies, and programs.



Field Manager

4-7-22

Date