

# BakkenLink AMS to Beaver Lodge Project Notification

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## BLM Notice of Application to Amend Existing ROW Grant Authorization No. NDM 102507

Under the provisions of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for an application to amend an existing right-of-way (ROW) for the proposed BakkenLink AMS to Beaver Lodge Project. This notice, pursuant to Section 102(2)(D)(IV) of NEPA, solicits the views and comments of private and governmental stakeholders in order to ensure that potential socioeconomic and environmental issues are considered and addressed.

The BLM is the designated lead federal agency for preparation of the EA for this project. Agencies with legal jurisdiction or special expertise have been invited to participate as cooperating agencies in preparation of the EA. Currently, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) - McKenzie Ranger District, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Riverdale, North Dakota, Office, have agreed to participate as cooperating agencies.

### BakkenLink AMS to Beaver Lodge Project Information

The applicant, BakkenLink Pipeline LLC (BakkenLink), has filed a ROW application proposing to amend their existing authorization (No. NDM 102507) to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed project on federal lands in McKenzie and Williams Counties, North Dakota, as shown in Attachment 1.

The proposed project would consist of approximately 35 miles of 12-inch-diameter

steel crude oil pipeline extending from the northern terminus of BakkenLink's existing pipeline system (Arrow Midstream [AMS] interconnect point near Johnson's Corner in McKenzie County, North Dakota), across Lake Sakakawea, to a proposed Beaver Lodge Interconnect Facility in Williams County, North Dakota, and also would include an oil receipt facility near Keene, North Dakota.

The proposed project is a continuation of an ongoing crude oil pipeline system that BakkenLink originally proposed to construct between Fryburg, ND, and the Beaver Lodge Interconnect Facility, near Tioga, ND (BakkenLink Pipeline Project). The originally proposed project was evaluated in an Environmental Assessment (EA) by the jurisdictional agencies in 2012. Because the jurisdictional agencies were interested in evaluating a horizontal directional drill (HDD) alternative crossing method of Lake Sakakawea and inadequate geotechnical data existed at the time to determine the feasibility of an HDD at the proposed crossing location, the BLM Decision Record indicated that it analyzed most, but not all, of the proposed project and possible alternatives. Because BakkenLink indicated a willingness to construct part of the project that did not include the Lake crossing, and because that part of the project had independent utility, a Mitigated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued for the segment of the project extending from Arrow Midstream to Fryburg (the mitigation being to not make a decision on the Lake crossing until the necessary geotechnical data could be obtained and evaluated). From September 2012 to February 2013, BakkenLink obtained and evaluated the necessary geotechnical data at the Lake Sakakawea crossing. The feasibility report completed by a third-party HDD expert determined that an HDD is not feasible due



to multiple factors, and indicated a very high likelihood of failure.

Given the new information, BakkenLink filed an application to amend its existing ROW to complete the project as originally proposed, crossing Lake Sakakawea using conventional pipeline construction methods, and terminating at the Beaver Lodge Interconnect Facility near Tioga, North Dakota.

The proposed project would continue to allow transport of Bakken crude oil southward to the Fryburg rail loading facility, but also would allow bidirectional flow, northward to the Beaver Lodge Interconnect Facility.

In total, approximately 5.3 miles of the proposed alignment occurs on federal land. The remaining alignment is proposed on private land and State of North Dakota-owned lands.

The proposed pipeline would be buried and follow existing pipeline and utility easements to the extent practicable.

### **Purpose of BLM's Notice**

The purpose of the notice process is to obtain feedback on relevant issues that may influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EA. BLM, USFS, and USACE personnel have preliminarily identified the following issues that will be addressed in the EA: potential impacts to surface water and groundwater from an accidental release of oil during pipeline operation; plant and animal species including special and sensitive status species; cultural resources and historic properties; noxious weeds; migratory birds; soils and hydrology; and socioeconomic impacts. The BLM is providing notice of the proposed BakkenLink AMS to Beaver Lodge Project and welcomes all comments on the proposed project for consideration in the EA. BLM will use the NEPA public participation

requirements to assist the agency in satisfying the public involvement requirements under NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)(16 U.S.C 470(f) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed BakkenLink AMS to Beaver Lodge Project will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and Section 106 of NHPA.

We will keep you informed of decisions resulting from the EA analysis. The EA will be made available on the BLM's website at:

**[http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/north\\_dakota\\_field.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/north_dakota_field.html)**

### **Written comments and/or resource information can be mailed to\*:**

BLM North Dakota Field Office  
Attention: Lowell Hassler, Project Manager  
BakkenLink Pipeline Project  
99 23rd Avenue West, Suite A  
Dickinson, North Dakota 58601

Comments also can be submitted electronically at [lhassler@blm.gov](mailto:lhassler@blm.gov).

The BLM must receive all written comments and information by May 22, 2013, in order to ensure that such comments and information are fully considered during the preparation of the EA.

**DISCLAIMER:** *Entire comments, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. You may ask the BLM, in your comment, to withhold such information from public review; however, the BLM cannot guarantee that will be possible."*

\* *Facsimile comments will not be accepted. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, at the BLM North Dakota Field Office, 99 23rd Avenue West, Suite A, Dickinson, ND 58601.*