

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
AMARILLO FIELD OFFICE**

Project: Crude Helium Pipeline Prairie Dog Control

EA Log Number: DOI-BLM-NM-0060-2016-4-EA

Location: Satanta, Haskell County, Kansas

Decision Record

DECISION: It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action to eradicate the prairie dog population at the Satanta Crude Helium Maintenance facility in Haskell County, Kansas. This Environmental Assessment (EA) provides the details of the prairie dog population controls that will be implemented. Short-term impacts that would occur as a result of this proposed action have been analyzed.

RATIONALE: "No Action" is not considered a viable option due to the need to provide a safe and healthy work environment for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees. The BLM staff have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and identified site-specific mitigation measures to avoid or minimize surface impacts resulting from implementation of the project.

The preferred alternative is to conserve the species by trapping and relocating the prairie dogs to a viable habitat in concurrence with Kansas State law. Trapping cannot achieve 100% removal, thus fumigation will be implemented in specified burrows where the remaining prairie dog utilization is observed. Viable habitat is limited in the state of Kansas and the implementation of this alternative is dependent on finding land owners or managers willing to accept the prairie dogs population. The proposed action is in conformance with the Texas Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (August 1995), as amended and its Record of Decision (May 1996) and conforms to the land-use planning terms and conditions required under 43 CFR 1610.5.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEAL: Under BLM regulations, this decision record is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of this decision record must include information required under 43 CFR 3166.3(b) (State Director Review), including all supporting documentation. Such a request must be filed in writing with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State office, 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87508, no later than 20 business days after this Decision Record is received or considered to have been received.

Any party who is adversely affected by the State Director's decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, as provided in 43 CFR 3166.4.

Approved by:

_____/s/_____

Robert Jolley
Field Manager, Amarillo Field Office

___5/9/2016_____

Date

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
AMARILLO FIELD OFFICE**

Project: Crude Helium Pipeline System Prairie Dog Control

EA Log Number: DOI-BLM-NM-0060-2016-4-EA

Location: Crude Helium Pipeline System in Haskell County Kansas

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action in the attached Environmental Assessment, I have determined that the proposed alternative to trap and relocate prairie dogs to a viable habitat away from the Satanta Helium Maintenance facility is not expected to have significant impacts on the environment. In addition, post-trap and relocation activities may include federal and state-approved pest-control procedures, such as application of toxic fumigants, followed by appropriate management and monitoring to prevent collateral damage to other species in the area. Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

We have looked for endangered and/or listed species at the site of the proposed action and did not find any. We consulted with local, state and federal wildlife experts to determine if they are aware of the existence or possibility of existence of endangered and/or listed species at this site or in the area and were assured that they are not aware of any. We looked for effects on the overall population of prairie dogs in Kansas and, based on the limited number in comparison to the total population relative to the approximately 10 acres of habitat at the Satanta Maintenance facility, we could find no effects. Therefore, based on careful analysis of the situation, the need to protect the pipeline operations and the small population of prairie dogs relatively isolated by farmlands with little to no prairie dogs, the development of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

Prepared by:

_____/s/_____
Cindy Sundblad
Planning and Environmental Coordinator, AmFO

Date: __5/11/2016__

Reviewed by:

_____/s/_____
Adrian Escobar
Natural Resource Specialist, AmFO

Date: __5/9/2016__

Approved by:

_____/s/_____
Robert Jolley
Field Manager, AmFO

Date: __5/9/2016__