

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Farmington District
Farmington Field Office
6251 N College Blvd., Ste. A
Farmington, NM 87402

Finding of No Significant Impact

**Mid-America Pipeline Company, LLC
Western Expansion Project III
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-FO10-2013-0146-EA**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

I have determined that the proposed action, as described in the EA will not have any significant impact, individually or cumulatively, on the quality of the human environment. Because there would not be any significant impact, an environmental impact statement is not required.

In making this determination, I considered the following factors:

1. The activities described in the proposed action do not include any significant beneficial or adverse impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)).

The EA includes a description of the expected environmental consequences from the construction and operation of a natural gas liquids project comprised of six loop pipeline segments totaling 233.7 miles, which start in Farmington and run southeast to Lovington, New Mexico. The Proposed Action is needed to increase transport capacity of natural gas liquids from production in the San Juan Basin and the Rockies.

2. The activities included in the proposed action would not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).

The project would be constructed in accordance with MAPL's construction specifications. The project would be regulated during operations according to U.S. Department of Transportation regulations. During construction, operation, and maintenance, the applicable requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act would be followed.

3. The proposed activities would not significantly affect any unique characteristics (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)) of the geographic area such as prime and unique farmlands, caves, wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or areas of critical concern.

The project would not affect any unique characteristics of the geographic area, including wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness areas, and wilderness study areas. No known caves would be affected by the project.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern that would be crossed by the Proposed Action would have short-term, temporary construction-related impacts, and would not involve new surface disturbance.

4. The activities described in the proposed action do not involve effects on the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).

No effects on the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial were identified during analysis of the Proposed Action.

5. *The activities described in the proposed action do not involve effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).*

No highly uncertain or unknown risks were identified during analysis of the Proposed Action.

6. *My decision to implement these activities does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).*

A decision to implement the Proposed Action would neither establish a precedent for future BLM actions with significant effects nor represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

7. *The effects from the construction and operation of the six loop pipeline segments would not be significant, individually or cumulatively, when considered with the effects of other actions (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).*

The EA discloses that the Proposed Action, in coordination with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions, would not result in significant cumulative effects requiring analysis in an EIS.

8. *I have determined that the activities described in the proposed action will not adversely affect or cause loss or destruction of scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).*

Cultural resource inventories of the area of potential effect for the project (see Sections 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 in the EA) have identified historic properties potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 63.2, 36 CFR 800.3, 36 CFR 800.4). The implementation of a Programmatic Agreement for compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will require the use of mitigation measures including avoidance, site protection and scientific data recovery to eliminate or reduce the potential adverse effects of the proposed action (36 CFR 800.3, 36 CFR 800.5). The degree of impact to eligible properties is limited, due to the recovery of significant scientific data (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).

9. *The proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).*

Black-footed ferret is the only federally-listed terrestrial species with potential to occur in the project area. This species is considered extirpated in the project area. Presence or absence surveys were conducted according to FWS guidelines in potentially suitable habitat with negative results (EA, Section 3.3.4).

The Proposed Action would use a horizontal directional drill to cross the Rio Puerco and Pecos rivers; thereby, avoiding effects to federally-listed Pecos River fish species and effects to southwest willow flycatcher habitat (EA, Section 3.3.4).

10. *The proposed activities will not threaten any violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).*

Sections 1.4 and 1.5 in the EA describe conformance with applicable Land Use Plans and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies as well as required federal, state, and local permits/approvals.

APPROVED:

[Approving Official]

[Title]

Farmington Field Office

Date

[Project Name]

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