

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TITLE PAGE  
RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

EA No. WY-037-06-EA-221

Name or Title of Action: Anadarko E&P Company, Doty Mountain to Jolly Roger sales pipeline

File Name, No. and Location: Right-of-way WYW-164084

Location: T. 18 N., R. 90 W., 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming  
Section 4: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 10: W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 16: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 28: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 32: N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$   
T. 17 N., R. 91 W., 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming  
Section 2: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 14: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

<u>Authors</u> <u>Reviewers</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Assignment</u> <u>(i.e. Author or Review)</u>	<u>Initials</u> <u>&amp; Date</u>
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Activity Code 1430

WY-03-1791-5 (05/89)

## INTRODUCTION

### Need for the Proposed Action

Development of domestic oil and gas reserves will reduce U.S. dependency on foreign supplies. For this particular project, the production is primarily coalbed natural gas, considered an integral part of the energy future in this county.

The proposed action as described in this Environmental Assessment (EA) is to obtain a right-of-way for a coalbed natural gas sales pipeline. This pipeline will cross both private and public land.

### Conformance with Land Use Plan

The Great Divide RMP was approved on November 8, 1990. 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).

### Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

The EA is prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and is in compliance with all applicable regulations and laws passed subsequent to the act.

This project is within the Doty Mountain and Jolly Roger Project areas. The EA's for the Doty Mountain Pod Project area was approved on February 6, 2004, and the Jolly Roger Pod Project area was approved on October 1, 2004.

The rights-of-way for a utility and transportation development are granted pursuant to Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761).

### Remarks

If the application is inadequate or incomplete, BLM can set forth stipulations in the Terms and Conditions of the grant that are necessary for the protection of the surface resources, uses, the environment, and for the reclamation of the disturbed lands. For this analysis, the stipulations are contained in the Terms and Conditions section of the grant and are considered part of the proposed action.

The proposed action is consistent with state and local government programs, plans, zoning, and applicable regulations.

## PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

### Proposed Action

The proposed action as described in this Environmental Assessment (EA) is to grant a right-of-way for an eight-inch coalbed natural gas sales pipeline on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The right-of-way grants and Additional Terms and Conditions contain a complete description of the proposal and are considered an integral part of this Environmental Assessment by reference.

The pipeline is an eight-inch steel line which will run from the compressor

station located in the Doty Mountain Pod to the compressor station located in the Jolly Roger Pod. The pipeline right-of-way will be 18,837-feet long, 50-feet wide and disturb 21.621 acres. All pipeline disturbances will be recontoured and reseeded immediately after installation (conditions permitting).

This project falls within greater sage grouse strutting and nesting areas, big game crucial winter range, and raptor nesting areas. Therefore, 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 areas; construction, drilling, and other activities potentially disruptive to wintering wildlife are prohibited during the period of November 15 to April 30 for the protection of big game winter habitat; and construction, drilling, and other activities potentially disruptive to greater sage grouse are prohibited during the period of March 1 to July 15 for the protection of strutting and nesting areas.

In addition to the standard cultural stipulation, the holder will be required to follow the stipulations outline in the signed MOA, which is attached to the grant.

#### No Action Alternative

If this option is selected by the deciding official, none of the actions described in the "Proposed Action" alternative would be implemented.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following critical elements of the human environment were analyzed and either did not occur in the area or would not be affected by the proposed action.

Critical Element	Affected		Critical Element	Affected	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality		X	T & E Species		X
ACECs		X	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid		X
Cultural Resources		X	Water Quality (surface and ground)		X
Environmental Justice		X	Woodlands/Riparian Zones		X
Farmlands, Prime/Unique		X	Wild & Scenic Rivers		X
Floodplain		X	Wilderness		X
Nat. Amer. Rel. Concerns		X	Invasive, Nonnative Species		X

In addition to these critical elements, reviews were conducted for impacts to air quality, wildlife, range resources (livestock), vegetation, soils, recreation, visual resources, health and safety, noise, paleontology, and socioeconomics. Reviews for some of these elements are noted on the attached documents. Otherwise, no effects on the resources would occur.

**Air Quality:** The proposed action would affect air quality slightly during the construction of the pipeline due to increases in dust and exhaust emissions from construction equipment. Construction should last for approximately two months. During construction and once the construction is completed, airborne pollutant concentrations (mainly dust) will meet all Wyoming and federal ambient air quality standards.

**Noise:** The proposed action would slightly increase noise levels during the construction period and during maintenance from use of the construction equipment. Construction should be approximately two months. These increased noise levels are not expected to impact the general area to any large extent. Noise levels will be kept less than 60 decibels, as measured, one-quarter mile

from the project site to protect greater sage grouse strutting.

**Cultural Resources:** A cultural resource inventory of the project was completed. The standard stipulation was added that if any cultural resources are discovered during construction the authorized officer is to be notified immediately. Additionally an MOA has been signed by the proponent, the BLM and the Wyoming SHPO office regarding additional mitigation measures for treatment of adverse effects. The MOA is attached at the end of this document.

**WILDLIFE and Livestock:** Native wildlife as well as livestock would be temporarily displaced during construction; however, wildlife and livestock would return after completion of the project. The proposed action falls within big game winter range, greater-sage grouse nesting habitat, and raptor nesting habitat.

**Vegetation and Soils:** Construction of the project would cause the devegetation of about 21.621 acres or less of land. Proper placement of water bars along the pipelines will decrease the potential for additional soil erosion.

The stipulations under the Terms and Conditions in the right-of-way Grant would help mitigate impacts through proper construction, installation of adequate drainage structures, stabilization and reseeding.

**Recreation and Visual Resources:** Recreation in the general area includes hunting for pronghorn antelope, mule deer, upland game birds, coyotes, and small game; camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, ORV use and sightseeing. The addition of this pipeline would have little impact to recreation. Visual resources would be slightly impacted by the proposed project. These impacts would be minimized by painting above ground facilities, contouring and seeding.

**Socioeconomics:** This project would provide for an additional source of methane gas for the country. The proposed action would have a minimal impact through increased economic activity as a result of this project. Increased production of oil and/or gas would have a slight benefit on the local economy through increased revenues from production royalty and taxes. In addition, there may be a minor increase to retail sectors of the economy from the construction, drilling, and production workforce.

**Health and Safety:** There would be a minor, increased risk caused by the proposed action. Risks include higher vehicle accident potential due to construction related traffic as well as the normal hazards to construction workers from construction.

**Hazardous Waste:** Anadarko has indicated in their right-of-way that commercial preparations which may contain hazardous substances would not be used in testing and production operations. The term "hazardous materials" 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.D.C. 2011 et seq.

Impacts to soils, surface and groundwater resources, wildlife, vegetation, and human health could result from the accidental exposure of hazardous materials. Since the project operation would comply with all applicable federal and state laws concerning hazardous materials, which includes the holder's Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan, no impacts are anticipated.

### Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts

All needed mitigation has been added to the Grant under Terms and Conditions. This EA was written using the application and the Terms and Conditions as part of the proposed action. For this reason, no additional mitigation measures are recommended.

Since no additional mitigation measures are proposed, no residual impacts other than those previously described are anticipated.

### Cumulative Impacts

In total, the approval of this project is expected to add approximately 21.621 acres or less of temporary additional surface disturbance to the area. This disturbance lies on private lands and on public land administered by the BLM.

Adoption of this alternative would add to the visual intrusion but will be minimized by painting the above-ground facilities a color which will blend with the surrounding area. Also recontouring and reclaiming the pads once the wells are producing will reduce the visual effects.

### PERSONS OR AGENCIES CONSULTED

Bill Falvey, Wildlife Biologist, BLM  
Frank Blomquist, Wildlife Biologist, BLM  
Pam Murdock, Archaeologist, BLM