

# Decision Record

## Endurance/Barricade Gas Infrastructure Project Environmental Assessment

Rawlins Field Office

November 2013



The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

**BLM/WY/PL-13/025+1310**

**DOI-BLM-WY-030-2013-0151-EA**

## DECISION RECORD

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#### **Decision:**

It is my decision to select Alternative B – the 14-Foot Endurance Northern Access Roadway (ENAR) and authorize the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) rights-of-way identified in the following table:

<b>Applicants</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>BLM Serial Number</b>
Samson Resources Company	Construct New Access Road	WYW-170826
Mountain Gas Resources	Install Two Pipelines (one 16-inch and one 20-inch diameter pipeline)	WYW-170827 WYW-181188
Mountain Gas Resources	Construct Two New Compressor Sites	WYW-181513 (East) WYW-181512 (West)
Mountain Gas Resources	Obtain ROW Access to Proposed Compressor Sites	WYW-182142
Mountain Gas Resources	Install a High (16-inch diameter) and Low Pressure Loop Pipeline (one 20-inch diameter)	WYW-181267 (Pressure Reducing Loop) WYW-181470 (High Pressure Loop).

The decision is contingent upon Samson Resources and Mountain Gas Resources fulfilling applicable environmental commitments, terms and conditions, including certain monitoring commitments, described in Alternative B of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and appendices.

#### **Plan Conformance and Consistency:**

The Proposed Action and alternatives considered were reviewed and found to be in conformance with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office (RFO) Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), approved December 24, 2008. Additionally, pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, this EA tiers to, and incorporates by reference, the information and analysis contained in the Desolation Flats Project Area Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and ROD. Impacts from the proposed Project would not exceed those described in Desolation Flats Project Area EIS/ROD.

#### **Terms, Compliance, and Monitoring:**

Potential resource conflicts and traffic safety considerations were resolved through environmental commitments and a mandatory traffic study integral to Alternative B and

monitoring stipulations. These are fully described in the EA and are incorporated by reference into the Decision Record (DR).

**Alternatives Considered:**

**Alternative A – Proposed Action Alternative**

The Proposed Action would include construction of the ENAR (approximately 4.59 miles), one 16-inch and one 20-inch pipeline (approximately 7.20 miles) along the ENAR, construction of two new compressor sites and associated access roads, ROW access to the compressor sites, and installation of high and low pressure loop pipelines (approximately 39.56 miles) on BLM-administered lands. The anticipated life of the Project would be up to 30 years, with the option for increased duration if the Endurance and Barricade Units would remain productive for oil and gas operations. Refer to Chapter 2 of the EA for additional detailed information on the Proposed Action Alternative.

**Alternative B – the 14-Foot Endurance Northern Access Roadway (ENAR)**

All proposed project activities, design features, operations, and maintenance practices would be the same as under the Proposed Action, with the exception of the ENAR, which would have a smaller running surface (14 feet) and multiple 100-foot turnouts. Turnouts would be constructed at a maximum spacing of 1,000 feet, for a total of approximately 24 turnouts. Refer to Chapter 2 of the EA for additional detailed information on the 14-foot ENAR Alternative.

**Alternative C – No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would deny the Applicants' Proposed Action and the 14-foot ENAR alternative. Surface management in and adjacent to the proposed project would remain the same and ongoing oil and gas development would continue on surrounding federal, state, and private leases.

**Rationale for Decision:**

The decision to approve Alternative B was based upon the following: (1) consistency with the BLM, RFO RMP; (2) national policy; (3) agency statutory requirements; (4) relevant resource and economic issues; (5) application of measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts; (6) meeting the purposes and need for the project; and (7) application of resource protection mitigation (i.e. lease stipulations). Alternative B was chosen as being the most environmentally sound alternative that meets the purpose and need of the Project.

1. This decision is in conformance with the BLM, RFO RMP.
2. It is the policy of the BLM, as derived from various laws, including the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) of 1920, as amended [30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.] and the FLPMA, to make mineral resources available for disposal and to encourage development of mineral resources to meet national, regional, and local needs.
3. The decision is consistent with all federal, state, and county authorizing actions required for implementation of the Proposed Action.
4. Economic benefits derived from implementation of the Proposed Action have been considered and analyzed in the EA.
5. Standard terms and conditions, as well as special stipulations would apply, as detailed in Appendix B of this EA.
6. The decision meets the stated purpose and need in the EA by allowing areas for development and expansion of oil and gas resources to help meet the Nation's current

and expanding need for energy resources without creating adverse impacts to present resources, while protecting resource values in accordance with guiding laws, regulations, and the BLM, RFO RMP through application of terms and conditions as detailed in Appendix B of this EA.

**Public Involvement:**

Internal scoping began on November 27, 2012 and concluded on August 20, 2013. On-site inspections of the Proposed Action were conducted on July 18, 2012 and May 21, 2013

A press release was issued August 21, 2013 and the EA was posted to the BLM.gov website for a two-week public comment period. Comments were submitted by e-mail to [BLM\\_WY\\_Endurance\\_Barricade\\_EA@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_WY_Endurance_Barricade_EA@blm.gov) or by post to c/o Endurance/Barricade Gas Infrastructure Project EA, Rawlins Field Office, BLM, P.O. Box 2407, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, WY 82301. Public comments and BLM responses have been included as Exhibit 1 to this Decision Record. Based on the public comments, minor corrections and updates have been integrated into the EA as needed.

**Appeal Information:**

This Decision is in full force and effect upon signing and shall remain in effect pending any appeal unless a stay is issued by the Interior Board of Land Appeals [43 CFR 2801.10(b)]. Any appeal of this Decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. A notice of appeal must be filed in the BLM Rawlins Field Office, 1300 North Third Street, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, WY 82301 within 30 days of this Decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision is in error.

To file for a stay of this Decision during the time your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed on Form 1842-1. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must be submitted to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (43 CFR 4.413) at the time the original documents are filed with this office. A copy of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each adversely affected party at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. The appellant has the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

**Standards for Obtaining a Stay:**

Except as otherwise provided by law, or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the protesters' success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of the immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Authorized Official:

  
for Dennis Carpenter  
Rawlins Field Manager

11/15/2013  
Date