

Flowline Replacement, Sundry Notice

DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA

APRIL 2011



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.

DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA

DECISION RECORD
for DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA
Flowline Replacement, Sundry Notice

I. DECISION

It is my decision to approve the associated Sundry Notice as described as Alternative 2 of Environmental Assessment No. DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA, and to include those measures proposed by Whiting Oil & Gas Corp.'s Sundry Notice application.

This Authorization will be granted subject to the Conditions of Approval as attached.

II. PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY:

The proposed action conforms to the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan for the Washakie Resource Area dated Sept. 1988, which is under revision and consolidation into the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (expected completion in 2012.) The decisions in the Washakie Resource Management Plan provide general management direction and allocation of uses and resources on the public lands in the area. The proposed action falls within alternatives analyzed in the Draft Bighorn Basin RMP revision.

III. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project considered three alternatives.

Alternative 1 -- The "Proposed Action" alternative assessed and disclosed the projected effects of the operator's proposal as detailed in the "Proposed Action" portion of the environmental assessment.

Alternative 2 -- The "Proposed Action with BLM implemented Design Features" alternative assessed the proposed action and BLM staff specialists input. It was felt that certain mitigation measures were necessary and proper to provide adequate protection of the surface and subsurface. For the purpose of analysis, the design features are part of this alternative.

Alternative 3 -- The "No Action" alternative assessed the effects of not implementing any portion of the proposal. Under the No Action Alternative, the WFO analyzed the effects of a denial of any further development associated with this project. This alternative provides a benchmark, enabling the decision-maker to compare the magnitude of the environmental effects of the alternatives.

IV. RATIONALE FOR DECISION

Alternative 2 was chosen as being the most environmentally sound alternative.

This decision is in conformance with the Washakie Resource Management Plan.

Conditions of Approval necessary for this action are attached and are considered a part of this approval.

V. APPEALS

Under BLM regulations, this decision is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of this decision must include information required under 43 CFR 3165.3(b) (State Director Review), including all supporting documentation. Such a request must be filed in writing with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, P.O.

Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, 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 3165.4

/s/Don Krump
Authorized Officer

04/26/2011
Date

Attachments --

EA: DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA; Conditions of Approval

FONSI

Flowline Replacement, Sundry Notice

DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA

Worland Field Office, Wind River/Bighorn Basin District, Wyoming

BLM

APRIL 2011



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.

DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA
Flowline Replacement, Sundry Notice

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the environmental assessment DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the selected action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

/s/Don Krump
Authorized Officer

04/26/2011
Date

Flowline Replacement, Sundry Notice

DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA

APRIL 2011



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.

DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA

**Flowline Replacement
DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2011-0059-EA**

Type of Project:
Sundry Notice

General Location of Proposed Action:
1010' FNL, 1971' FWL NE1/4 NW1/4; sec 23; T.47N, R.92W.

Name and Location of Preparing Office:
*Worland Field Office
101 S. 23rd St.
Worland, WY 82401*

Lease/Serial/Case File Number:
WYW60947

Applicant Name:
Whiting Oil & Gas Corp.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of this action is to allow the operator to complete work on their Oil & Gas leases for further recovery of mineral resources. This would result in maintaining the goals and objectives of the operators lease rights and are in compliance with Section 6 of their Lease Terms.

The need for the action is established by the BLM's responsibility under FLPMA to respond to this type of request.

Decision to be Made:

The BLM will decide whether or not to approve the application submitted by the operator, and if so, what conditions of approval would apply.

Conformance

The proposed action conforms to the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan for the Washakie Resource Area dated Sept. 1988, which is under revision and consolidation into the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (expected completion in 2012.) The decisions in the Washakie Resource Management Plan provide general management direction and allocation of uses and resources on the public lands in the area. The proposed action falls within alternatives analyzed in the Draft Bighorn Basin RMP revision.

Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Plans or Other Environmental Analyses

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) and complies with applicable regulations and laws passed subsequent to the Act. In addition, this EA is prepared utilizing the stipulations and format outlined in the BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 (BLM 1988). The Proposed Action and alternatives will comply with relevant federal, state, and local regulations, plans, and policies.

This action would allow the lessee to exercise their legal right to drill, explore, and produce hydrocarbons from the lease under regulations and policy derived from the Mineral Leasing Act. The Secretary of the Interior has entered into a lease agreement with the proponent that gives them the “exclusive right to drill for, mine, extract, remove and dispose of the oil and gas resources within the lease area.” The applicant has submitted a proposed action to the BLM to at least partially exercise their rights under this agreement, in accordance with 43 CFR 3162.3-1 and Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 1.

This project does not fit any of the specified criteria allowing for Categorical Exclusion from NEPA analysis under Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and is therefore being analyzed herein.

The area was assessed as per the Wyoming Instruction Memorandum (IM) WY-IM-2010-012 (Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Management Policy on Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Administered Lands including the Federal Mineral Estate). The IM directs the BLM to analyze Greater Sage-grouse habitat out to a minimum of four miles from the project location. This analysis is to occur both within and outside of the Greater Sage-grouse core areas (core areas as designated by the Wyoming Governor’s Executive Order EO 2010-4). This project does not fall within a Greater Sage-grouse core area and conforms to the guidance above.

The BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H.1601-1) states that the BLM must consider the management of lands with wilderness characteristics during the land use planning process. The criteria used to identify these lands are essentially the same criteria used for determining wilderness characteristics for wilderness study areas (WSA). However, the authority set forth in Section 603(a) of FLPMA to complete the three part wilderness review process (inventory, study, and report to Congress) expired on October 21, 1993; therefore, FLPMA does not apply to new WSA proposals and consideration of new WSA proposals on BLM-administered public lands is no longer valid. As required by FLPMA, Section 201, as well as consistent with Secretarial Order 3310, the alternatives were evaluated and screened in accordance with the SO 3310 and the Draft Manuals.

Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues

The proposed action was reviewed by an interdisciplinary team. Based on the size and routine nature of the proposed project, it was determined that external scoping was not necessary.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Project Description

Whiting Oil & Gas Corp. has requested permission to replace an existing flowline. The flowline is approximately 1725' in length and would be buried 4-5' deep. The disturbance would follow the shoulder of the existing road and approximately 2' wide trench would be dug to remove the old line and install the new. Total right-of-way to accommodate surface disturbing activities and access would be provided for approximately 10' width.

Alternatives Considered

Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) --

This alternative would permit the action as proposed by the operator and discussed in the Project Description.

Alternative 2- (Proposed Action with incorporated Design Features)—

Based on BLM staff specialists input and the observations made at the joint field inspection, it was felt that additional measures were necessary and proper to provide adequate protection of the area resources.

The BLM can set forth design features that are necessary for the protection of the surface resources, uses and the environment; and for the reclamation of the disturbed lands. Design features are those specific means, measures, or practices that make up the proposed action and alternatives. Additional design features are added as needed to the proposed action or alternatives. Regulations, standard operating procedures, stipulations, and operator committed measures, and best management practices are usually considered design features. Design features are incorporated into the Proposed Action or alternatives to reduce or avoid adverse effects.

This alternative analyzes the proposed action with BLM imposed design features. These features include:

Land Use—

No surface disturbance or construction activity shall occur outside the existing disturbed surface (approximately 15' from center). All vehicle traffic shall be kept within the approved right-of-way.

Upon installation of the new flowlines, any existing lines not needed for production operations shall be removed and hauled to an approved disposal facility. Or shall be properly purged and capped and left in place.

Cultural--

The operator is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during construction, the operator is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;

- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,

- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction measures.

Paleontology –

The operator is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological localities, or for collecting vertebrate fossils. If paleontological materials are uncovered during operations, the operator is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO).

Within five (5) working days the AO will evaluate the discoveries and take necessary actions to protect or remove the resource. Decisions regarding the appropriate measures to mitigate effects to such resources will be made in consultation with the operator.

Vegetation (Invasive Species) –

Regular monitoring of the site will be necessary to detect the presence of noxious weeds before they can become established and spread. If noxious weeds are detected, the operator will be responsible for treatment in accordance with BLM policy.

Vegetation (Native Species)—

The disturbed area would be reseeded with a native seed mix.

Soils –

Construction activity will not be conducted using frozen or saturated soil material or during periods when watershed damage or excessive rutting is likely to occur.

No construction or routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of 4 inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support construction equipment.

Topsoil shall be removed at a depth of 4-6 inches from all areas of surface disturbance. Topsoil shall be clearly segregated from spoil material.

Following construction all disturbed areas shall be restored, topsoil replaced and areas reseeded as prescribed. To prevent erosion, waterbars, mulching, or other protective measures may be

required. Backfill shall be thoroughly compacted. Topsoil shall be spread evenly over all areas to be reclaimed.

No mounding shall be permitted.

Trenches shall be routinely inspected and maintained to ensure proper settling, stabilization and reclamation.

Operators are required to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Permit from the Wyoming DEQ for any projects that disturb one acre or more. This general construction storm water permit must be obtained from the WDEQ prior to any surface disturbing activities and can be obtained by following direction on the WDEQ website at <http://deq.state.wy.us>. Further information can be obtained by contacting the NPDES coordinator at (307) 775-7570.

The Operator shall ensure all appropriate measures are taken to control erosion. Upon completion of construction the operator shall initiate the approved Storm Water Discharge Plans on the location and associated access.

Hazardous Materials--

The Operator and their contractors shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations as they relate to hazardous materials. Hazardous materials being those chemicals listed in Title III List of Lists, EPA's Consolidated List of Chemicals Subject to Emergency Planning and the Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act, as amended, or the 40CFR 302.4 Table-List of Hazardous Substances and Reportable Quantities, as amended. In the event any hazardous materials are used, they would be handled in an appropriate manner to prevent environmental contamination. Any release of hazardous materials of reportable quantities, would be reported both to the National Response Center (NRC), as required in the National Oil and Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300), and the Worland Field Office, as per the Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan.

All Undesirable Events shall be reported in compliance with NTL-3A. If during any phase of the construction, drilling, production, or reclamation of the approved actions any oil or other pollutant should be discharged from the approved area, containers or vehicles impacting Federal lands, the control and total removal, disposal, and cleanup of such oil or other pollutant, wherever found, shall be the responsibility of the operator, regardless of fault. Upon failure of the operator to control, cleanup, or dispose of such discharge on or affecting Federal lands, or to repair all damages to Federal lands resulting therefrom, the authorized officer may take such measures as he deems necessary to control and cleanup the discharge and restore the area, including, where appropriate, the aquatic environment and fish and wildlife habitats, at the full expense of the operator. Such action by the authorized officer shall not relieve the operator of any liability or responsibility.

Construction sites shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those sites shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.

Alternative 3 (No Action)

The action would not be approved and the operator would have to find alternative means of transportation of oil to their battery.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Resources and features not present, and not discussed in this EA, include: Environmental Justice, Prime or Unique Farmlands, Flood Plains, Native American Religious Concerns, riparian areas, Class I visual management areas, Class I Airsheds, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wetlands, Wilderness Values or Inventoried Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.

Land Use

Other than livestock grazing, oil and gas production, and wildlife use, there are no known land uses, or proposals for use, that occur in the area such as special recreation areas that would be affected by, or have the potential for cumulative impacts with this proposed action.

Cultural Resources, Traditional Cultural Properties, Native American Religious Concerns

1511043N--

No class III cultural resources inventory was required for this project. It was determined human activity within the last 50 years has created a new land surface to such an extent as to eradicate traces of cultural properties.

Vegetation

Native Vegetation

The proposed project is located within a Shale Range Site which is naturally sparse in vegetation with bare ground making up to 75 to 85 percent of the site. Grasses found on this site include bottlebrush squirreltail, rhizomatous wheatgrasses, blue grama, alkali sacaton and cheatgrass. Forbs commonly found include smooth woodyster, stemless mock goldenweed, Hood's phlox, sulfur flower buckwheat, Cous biscuitroot, and scarlet globemallow. Shrubs such as Gardner saltbush, winterfat, and birdfoot sagebrush are present as well as plains pricklypear.

Invasive, Non Native Species Noxious Weeds

Canada thistle and saltcedar have been documented in the project area.

Livestock Grazing

Rattlesnake Ridge #00034, See Affected Environment

This project is located within the Rattlesnake Ridge Allotment which is operated by Brubaker Ranch. The Allotment consists of 11,885 acres all of which are federal land. The grazing permit authorizes a total of 1,243 AUMs in the grazing year with the majority of use occurring during the non-growing season or dormant season. The authorization schedule is shown below:

1290 Sheep 12/1 to 2/28 100% P.L. 763 AUMs

1300 Sheep 3/1 to 4/25 100% P. L. 479 AUMs

The Rattlesnake Ridge Allotment is within the 5-9 inch precipitation zone and the majority of the Range Sites are Shale, Saline Upland, and Rock Outcrop.

Paleontology

Proposed project is located within Willwood Formation with a PFYC (Potential Fossil Yield Classification) rating of 5 or very high. This means the project area has a very high sensitivity for paleontological resources. Typical fossils found within this formation includes mammalian

vertebrates and plants. A paleontological inventory was not necessary for the project location. Existing disturbance has eradicated the potential for intact significant localities.

Recreation and Visual Resource Management; Special Designations Including ACECs, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Recreation

The project is located in an area classified as roaded-natural where natural landscape is partially modified by roads, utility lines, etc, but none of the modifications overpower the natural landscape features. The visitor in such a setting could be located in an area characterized as on or near improved county roads but at least half mile from all highways. Social settings are observed at the middle country where four to six people per group will be encountered with seven to 14 encounters a day. The physical settings in the area would qualify as a more industrial setting due to the amount of utility lines, gas wells, and other energy related infrastructure in the area. However, there exists a large amount of public access in this area consisting of deep drainages and steep bluffs creating a dominant presence in the Worland area which attracts visitors to explore the area. Other recreational use for this area consists of such activities such as sightseeing, hunting, driving for pleasure (OHV and 4WD), destination travel for viewing the area and general dispersed recreation. OHV limits OHVs to existing roads and trails. OHV activities are popular along Rattlesnake Ridge. In maintaining the OHV recreational opportunities, there are roads on Rattlesnake Ridge designated as State of Wyoming Trails program ORV routes, in which the road along the project area is designated as an ORV route. OHV management in the area limits use to existing roads and trails.

LWC

Wilderness characteristics are resource values that include naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Areas evaluated for wilderness characteristics generally occur in undeveloped locations 5,000 contiguous acres and greater, or of sufficient size to be practical to manage for these characteristics. The BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H.1601-1) states that the BLM must consider the management of lands with wilderness characteristics during the land use planning process. The criteria used to identify these lands are essentially the same criteria used for determining wilderness characteristics for wilderness study areas (WSA). However, the authority set forth in Section 603(a) of FLPMA to complete the three part wilderness review process (inventory, study, and report to Congress) expired on October 21, 1993; therefore, FLPMA does not apply to new WSA proposals and consideration of new WSA proposals on BLM-administered public lands is no longer valid.

As mandated by FLPMA, Section 201, the BLM is still required to maintain an inventory of BLM-administered public lands to determine whether they possess wilderness characteristics. Secretarial Order 3310, passed on December 24, 2010, required the BLM to inventory all public lands for wilderness characteristics and manage those containing wilderness characteristics to be managed as a Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC). Land use planning, or RMP amendments will then determine whether an LWC will be designated as a Wild Land. Recent inventories have found BLM-administered public lands that are within proximity to the immediate project area absent of wilderness characteristics.

Visual Resource Management

The area is managed as a Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III. The objective of class III is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. Rattlesnake Ridge consists of natural contrasting elements of form, line, color, and texture back-dropped by the Bighorn Mountains, Owl Creek Mountains, and the Absaroka Mountains. This combination of elements and landscape creates a scenic and interesting area. There is currently an abundance of existing utility lines, roads, oil and gas infrastructures, and towers located along Rattlesnake Ridge. These human-made contrasting elements of line, color, and form create distractions to the casual observer from the natural elements.

Soils

The proposed flow line is in soil map unit 57 Persayo - Rock Outcrop Association. The Persayo soil series formed over soft shale bedrock. It is shallow (10-20 inches) and well drained soil. The soil reaction (pH) ranges from 7.9 to 9.0. Soil salinity is slight ranging from 0 to 8 mmhos/cm³. Rock outcrop consists of shale and sandstone. Based on topographic map interpretation, slopes along the pipeline range from 4 to 20 percent.

The Persayo soil series and the bedrock component of this map unit are classified as Soil Hydrologic Group D. This is a USDA rating system for runoff potential based on infiltration and transmission rates. Hydrologic Group D are soils with very slow infiltration rates and a very slow rate of water transmission. These soils are considered to have high runoff potential.

Excavation would consist of digging through previously excavated soils unless there was reason to excavate to a deeper depth. In either case, these soils pose few problems for excavation in that the bedrock consists largely of soft shales.

Wildlife

Wildlife habitat in the project area is characterized by gently rolling landscape with shallow drainages flowing generally into Slick Creek. The vegetative community is dominated by Wyoming sage brush and perennial grasses, prickly pear, yucca, and various forbes. Wildlife habitat exists in the project area for antelope, mule deer, numerous small mammals and predators, passerines, white-tail prairie dogs, and various raptors which utilize it on a year round basis. The Wyoming Department of Game and Fish has designated much of the surrounding area as suitable for mountain plover, although none of the birds have been observed utilizing the habitat. There is considerable disturbance in the area associated with past and present development of oil and gas resources. No endangered or threatened wildlife species have been recorded or are known to utilize the habitat within the project area. The project area is not within a sage grouse core breeding and nesting area.

Hazardous or Solid Wastes

Other than transportation of oil to the tank battery, there were no hazardous or solid wastes identified with this proposal.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Land Use

Alternative 1: Under this alternative the operator proposes to stay within the existing right-of-way and to recover the old pipe. There would be approximately .397 acres affected by the proposed action, including the area available for vehicle travel.

Alternative 2: No additional consequences would be expected under this alternative. Design features would be implemented to assure that the disturbance and associated traffic would remain within the right-of-way. The old flowline would be removed and hauled to a disposal facility. Impacts would not be significant

Alternative 3: Under the No Action Alternative, the development of the proposed Action would not occur. No resulting effects on land uses would be expected to occur beyond the current situation.

Cultural Resources, Traditional Cultural Properties, Native American Religious Concerns

Alternative 1: Heavy previous surface disturbance has removed the potential for intact cultural properties and the project area was previously inventoried at the Class III level. No additional consequences would be expected under this alternative.

Alternative 2: No additional consequences would be expected under this alternative. The project authorization is recommended with standard stipulations included in the conditions of approval. Impacts would not be significant

Alternative 3: Under the No Action Alternative, the development of the proposed Action would not occur. No resulting effects on cultural resources would be expected to occur beyond the current situation.

Vegetation

Native Vegetation

Alternative 1: There would be approximately .397 acres affected by the proposed action, including the area available for vehicle travel. The operator does not make provisions for reclamation of disturbed areas in the proposed action.

Alternative 2: Design features would be implemented under this alternative. A seed mix would be prescribed and once installation of the flowline is complete seeding would occur. Impacts would not be significant

Alternative 3: Under the No Action Alternative, the development of the proposed Action would not occur. No resulting effects on vegetation would be expected to occur beyond the current situation.

Invasive, Non Native Species Noxious Weeds

Alternative 1: New disturbance will increase risk for noxious weeds to infest the site.

Alternative 2: Infestation risk could be reduced by properly identifying noxious weeds and prompt implementation of a weed management plan. Impacts would not be significant

Alternative 3: No action would maintain current level of risk for noxious weed infestation.

Livestock Grazing

Alternative 1: Under the Proposed Action, livestock grazing management on the Rattlesnake Ridge Allotment would occur in the same manner as in the past. The project's amount of disturbance, proximity to the road, and installment prior to the grazing season will not significantly reduce AUMs or have any displacement effects on livestock.

Alternative 2: Same as Alternative 1. Impacts would not be significant

Alternative 3: If no action is taken then grazing will continue occur as it has in the past.

Paleontology

Alternative 1: The surface formation is Willwood which has a very high sensitivity for paleontological resources. Existing disturbance has eradicated the potential for intact significant localities. No additional consequences would be expected under this alternative.

Alternative 2: No additional consequences would be expected under this alternative. The project authorization is recommended with standard stipulations. Impacts would not be significant

Alternative 3: Under the No Action Alternative, the development of the proposed Action would not occur. No resulting effects on paleontological resources would be expected to occur beyond the current situation.

Recreation and Visual Resource Management; Special Designations Including ACECs, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Recreation

Alternative 1: The proposed project will not create new disturbances to the current recreational settings which would displace users to alternative areas. The project will be observed during project activities, but will be unnoticeable to the casual observer after the flowline is replaced. The disturbance corridor will contribute to the already accumulated utility presence to the area, but will not introduce new elements which would degrade the recreational experiences and settings to the point of displacing users to alternative areas.

Alternative 2: Impacts to Recreation will be the same as those addressed in Alternative 1. Impacts would not be significant

Alternative 3: Under the No Action Alternative, the development of the proposed Action would not occur. No adverse impacts to recreation would be expected beyond the current situation.

LWC

Alternative 1: Because wilderness characteristics are absent within the project area, the proposed project will not impact wilderness characteristics on BLM-administered public lands within or surrounding the area.

Alternative 2: Impacts to LWCs will be the same as those addressed in Alternative 1. Impacts would not be significant

Alternative 3: Under the No Action Alternative, the development of the proposed Action would not occur. No adverse impacts to wilderness characteristics would be expected beyond the current situation.

Visual Resource Management

Alternative 1: The proposed project will add contrasting elements of form, line, texture, and color against the natural surrounding elements. These elements are not new contrasting elements and will not be observed as such by the casual visitor to the area. This contrasting linear element will be observed during flowline replacement, but may be unnoticeable to the casual observer after the activity is final. The proposed project is located in an area containing many observed human-made alterations to the area which absorbs the new contrasting elements.

Alternative 2: Impacts to VRM will be the same as those addressed in Alternative 1, with the exception that VRM may benefit from additional COAs from the other renewable resources. Impacts would not be significant

Alternative 3: Under the No Action Alternative, the development of the proposed Action would not occur. No adverse impacts to VRM would be expected beyond the current situation.

Soils

Alternative 1 : Under the proposed action, few impacts to the soil resource are anticipated. Soil horizons would be further mixed and shale bedrock would be mixed into the soil material.

The soils would be susceptible to runoff and erosion during the time that they are bare. Based on calculations generated by the U.S. Forest Service web-based Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP), Disturbed WEPP model, there is a 92 percent probability of runoff and erosion during this interim time before soils revegetate. During this time, erosion rates could average 1 tons per acre per year. In the unlikely event of a 50-year storm cycle, erosion rates could be as high as 11 tons per acre per year. This would not be a wide spread phenomena given the limited area of surface disturbance.

Despite the potential to encounter pH values close to 9.0, the seed mix required by BLM has species capable of establishing under these conditions. Disturbed areas should be fully reclaimed in 3 to 5 years, at which time the plant community would be adequate to protect the soil from the erosive forces of overland flow and rain drop impacts.

Alternative 2: Implementation of design features would reduce impacts to soil resources. Proper compaction and successful reclamation would decrease erosion potential over time. Impacts would not be significant

Alternative 3: Under this alternative the flow line would not be replaced. Runoff and erosion rates remain at background levels.

Wildlife

Alternative 1: No significant effect on wildlife resources is expected as a result of the proposed action.

Alternative 2: No conditions of approval are prescribed for the proposed action with regard to the protection of wildlife resources. Impacts would not be significant

Alternative 3: No effect on wildlife resources is expected in the event that the proposed action does not take place.

Hazardous or Solid Wastes

Alternative 1: Should hazardous materials be used in an improper manner, there could be environmental impacts resulting from an accidental spill or an inappropriate discharge. This could result in impacts to the soil, water, air, wildlife, and cultural resources, in addition to impacts to human health and safety.

Alternative 2: Proper containment of fuels, oil and other hazardous materials in appropriately designed and maintained storage facilities and an immediate response in the event of a release would greatly reduce any potential impacts. The operator is required to report all undesirable events under NTL3-A.

The Operator and their contractors would comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations as they relate to hazardous materials. Hazardous materials being those chemicals listed in Title III List of Lists, EPA's Consolidated List of Chemicals Subject to Emergency Planning and the Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act, as amended, or the 40CFR 302.4 Table-List of Hazardous Substances and Reportable Quantities, as amended. In the event any hazardous materials are used, they would be handled in an appropriate manner to prevent environmental contamination. Any release of hazardous materials of reportable quantities, would be reported both to the National Response Center (NRC), as required in the National Oil and Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300), and the Worland Field Office, as per the Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan.

Alternative 3: Under the No Action Alternative, the development of the proposed Action would not occur. No resulting effects on public health or safety would be expected to occur beyond the current situation.

Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects would result in the initial loss of vegetation. This would be a short term effect that would be reduced upon successful implementation of the design features.

TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, or AGENCIES CONSULTED

Person Consulted	Agency/Tribe/Organization
<i>John Webb</i>	<i>Whiting Oil & Gas Corp.</i>

LIST OF PREPARERS

The following Worland Field Office personnel reviewed or have been contacted with regard to this EA.

List of Reviewers

Name	Title
Marit Bovee	Archaeologist
Ted Igleheart	Wildlife Biologist
Paul Rau	Recreation/Visual Specialist
Mike Peck	Range Management Specialist
Karen A. Hepp	Range Management Specialist (T&E/Sensitive Plants)
Monica Goepferd	Civil Engineer
Steve Kiracofe	Soils Scientist
CJ Grimes	NRS/Weeds
Jared Dalebout	Hydrologist

Conditions of Approval

Flowline Replacement, Sundry Notice

1. The operator shall contact the authorized officer a minimum of 5 days prior to beginning any construction activities.
2. No surface disturbance or construction activity shall occur outside the existing disturbed surface (approximately 7.5' from center). All vehicle traffic shall be kept within the approved right-of-way.
3. Upon installation of the new flowlines, any existing lines not needed for production operations shall be removed and hauled to an approved disposal facility.
4. Construction activity will not be conducted using frozen or saturated soil material or during periods when watershed damage or excessive rutting is likely to occur.
5. No construction or routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of 4 inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support construction equipment.
6. Topsoil shall be removed at a depth of 4-6inches from all areas of surface disturbance. Topsoil shall be clearly segregated from spoil material.
7. Following construction all disturbed areas shall be restored, topsoil replaced and areas reseeded as prescribed. To prevent erosion, waterbars, mulching, or other protective measures may be required. Backfill shall be thoroughly compacted. Topsoil shall be spread evenly over all areas to be reclaimed.
8. No mounding shall be permitted.
9. Trenches shall be routinely inspected and maintained to ensure proper settling, stabilization and reclamation.
10. Construction holes left open for more than 24 hours shall be covered or left in a manner to allow for escape of any entrapped animal. Covers shall be secured in place and shall be strong enough to prevent livestock or wildlife from falling through and into a hole.
11. Operators are required to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Permit from the Wyoming DEQ for any projects that disturb one acre or more. This general construction storm water permit must be obtained from the WDEQ prior to any surface disturbing activities and can be obtained by following direction on the WDEQ website at <http://deq.state.wy.us>. Further information can be obtained by contacting the NPDES coordinator at (307) 775-7570.

12. The Operator shall ensure all appropriate measures are taken to control erosion. Upon completion of construction the operator shall initiate the approved Storm Water Discharge Plans on the location and associated access.
13. The operator is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during construction, the operator is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a time frame for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation costs. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

14. The Operator is responsible for inspection of the construction area for the presence of both surface and subsurface utility facilities and shall notify the Wyoming One-Call System (1-800-849-2476, www.onecallofwyoming.com) before construction activities begin. The Operator will use extra safety precautions when working near or around pipelines, power lines, underground cables, or other utility installations.
15. The Operator and their contractors shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations as they relate to hazardous materials. Hazardous materials being those chemicals listed in Title III List of Lists, EPA's Consolidated List of Chemicals Subject to Emergency Planning and the Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act, as amended, or the 40CFR 302.4 Table-List of Hazardous Substances and Reportable Quantities, as amended. In the event any hazardous materials are used, they would be handled in an appropriate manner to prevent environmental contamination. Any release of hazardous materials of reportable quantities, would be reported both to the National Response Center (NRC), as required in the National Oil and Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300), and the Worland Field Office, as per the Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan.
16. All Undesirable Events shall be reported in compliance with NTL-3A. If during any phase of the construction, drilling, production, or reclamation of the approved actions any oil or other pollutant should be discharged from the approved area, containers or vehicles impacting

Federal lands, the control and total removal, disposal, and cleanup of such oil or other pollutant, wherever found, shall be the responsibility of the operator, regardless of fault. Upon failure of the operator to control, cleanup, or dispose of such discharge on or affecting Federal lands, or to repair all damages to Federal lands resulting therefrom, the authorized officer may take such measures as he deems necessary to control and cleanup the discharge and restore the area, including, where appropriate, the aquatic environment and fish and wildlife habitats, at the full expense of the operator. Such action by the authorized officer shall not relieve the operator of any liability or responsibility.

17. Construction sites shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those sites shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.
18. All disturbed areas shall be drill seeded. Where drilling is impractical, seed shall be broadcast and the area raked or chained to cover seed. If broadcast seeding is used, the approved seed mix shall be doubled.
19. All disturbed areas shall be reseeded with the following mixture of all Pure Live Seed

Species	Pounds PLS/Acre
Bluebunch wheatgrass	4.0

Fall seeding shall be completed after September 1, and prior to ground frost. Spring seeding shall be completed after the frost has left the ground and prior to May 15. Seeding shall be repeated if a satisfactory stand is not obtained.

The authorized Officer may add additional conditions of approval to protect the resources, if conditions require it. The operator shall comply with applicable laws and regulations.