



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Great Plains Regional Office  
115 Fourth Avenue S.E.  
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401



IN REPLY REFER TO:

DESCRM  
MC-208

MAR 17 2011

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendent, Fort Berthold Agency

FROM: <sup>Acting</sup> Regional Director, Great Plains Region

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment Addendum and Finding of No Significant Impact

In compliance with the regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for an addendum to Environmental Assessment to authorize land use for gathering pipelines connecting the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 well pad to the FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 gathering pipeline on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, an Addendum has been completed and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been issued.

All the necessary requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act have been completed. Attached for your files is a copy of the EA Addendum, FONSI and Notice of Availability. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations require that there be a public notice of availability of the FONSI (1506.6(b)). Please post the attached notice of availability at the Agency and Tribal buildings for 30 days.

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Bercier, Regional Environmental Scientist, Division of Environment, Safety and Cultural Resources Management, at (605) 226-7656.

Attachment

cc: Tex Hall, Chairman, Three Affiliated Tribes (with attachment)  
Elgin Crows Breast, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (with attachment)  
Derek Enderud, BLM, Bureau of Land Management (with attachment)  
Jonathon Shelman, Corps of Engineers (with attachment)  
Jeff Hunt, One Stop Shop, Fort Berthold Agency

**Finding of No Significant Impact  
Arrow Pipeline, LLC**

**Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for Gathering Pipelines  
Connecting the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 Well Pad to the FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR  
Yellowwolf #21x-10 Gathering Pipeline**

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) received a proposal for an Addendum to the Environmental Assessment to construct and install oil, gas, and water gathering pipelines on trust land originating from the northwestern side of the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 well pad and joining the approved FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 gathering pipeline. Associated federal actions by BIA include determinations of effect regarding cultural resources and approvals of leases, rights-of-way and easements.

Potential of the proposed action to impact the human environment is analyzed in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Based on the recently completed addendum to the EA, I have determined the proposed project will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. No Environmental Impact Statement is required for any portion of the proposed activities.

This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Agency and public involvement was solicited and environmental issues related to the proposal were identified.
2. Protective and prudent measures were designed to minimize impacts to air, water, soil, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, water resources, and cultural resources. The potential for impacts was disclosed for both the proposed action and the No Action alternative.
3. Guidance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been fully considered regarding wildlife impacts, particularly in regard to threatened or endangered species. This guidance includes the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.) (MBTA), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250) (BGEPA), Executive Order 13186 "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds", and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA).
4. The proposed action was designed to avoid adverse effects to historic, archaeological, cultural, and traditional properties, sites, and practices. The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer has concurred with BIA's determination that no historic properties will be affected.
5. Environmental justice was fully considered.
6. Cumulative effects to the environment are either mitigated or minimal.
7. No regulatory requirements have been waived or require compensatory mitigation measures.
8. The proposed project will improve the socioeconomic condition of the affected Indian community.

Acting

  
Regional Director – Great Plains Regional Office

3-17-11  
Date

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
Addendum**

**United States Bureau of Indian Affairs**

**Great Plains Regional Office  
Aberdeen, South Dakota**



**Arrow Pipeline, LLC**

**Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for Gathering  
Pipelines Connecting the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 Well Pad to the FBIR Ironwoman #21x-  
10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 Gathering Pipeline**

**Fort Berthold Indian Reservation**

**March 2011**

For information contact:  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Plains Regional Office  
Division of Environment, Safety and Cultural Resources Management  
115 4th Avenue SE, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401  
(605) 226-7656

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## **1. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

XTO Energy (XTO) is proposing to drill an exploratory oil and gas well (i.e., FBIR Darcie #34x-14) on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation to evaluate and possibly develop the commercial potential of natural resources. Developments have been proposed on land held in trust by the United States in Dunn County, North Dakota. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is the surface management agency for potentially affected tribal lands and individual allotments. The BIA also holds title to subsurface mineral rights. The economic development of available resources and associated BIA actions are consistent with BIA's general mission. Leasing and development of mineral resources offers substantial economic benefits to the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations and to individual tribal members.

The purpose of the proposed action is to authorize the land use by Arrow Pipeline, LLC (Arrow) for the construction and installation of three gathering pipelines: one oil line, one gas line, and one water line, all of which will not individually exceed a diameter of 8 inches. The proposed gathering pipelines would transport oil, gas, and produced water from productive wells to markets and disposal facilities.

## **2. Authorities**

Oil and gas exploration and development activities are conducted under authority of the Indian Mineral Leasing Act of 1938 (25 United States Code [USC] 396a, et seq.), the Indian Mineral Development Act of 1982 (25 USC 2101, et seq.), and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 USC 15801, et seq.).

## **3. Legal Land Description for Proposed Action**

The FBIR Darcie #34x-14 gathering pipelines would be located on trust land originating from the northwestern side of the well pad, approximately 13.5 miles east-southeast of Mandaree, North Dakota, in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 14, Township (T) 148 North (N), Range (R) 92 West (W), 5<sup>th</sup> Prime Meridian (P.M.), Dunn County, North Dakota, and terminating in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 3, T148N, R92W, 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Dunn County, North Dakota.

## **4. Scope of Work for Proposed Action**

Arrow proposes to construct and install oil, gas, and water gathering pipelines on trust land originating from the northwestern side of the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 well pad and joining the approved FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 gathering pipeline. Oil, gas, and water pipelines would be buried in either two 2.5-foot-wide trenches, spaced 5.0 feet apart, or one 5.0-foot-wide trench. Oil and gas pipelines would be no larger than 8 inches in diameter and constructed of steel. The water pipeline would also be no larger than 8 inches in diameter and constructed of Fiberspar<sup>®</sup> or similar material. Approximately 13,843 feet of oil, gas, and water pipe, respective to product type, would be needed to connect the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 well pad to the approved FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR #Yellowwolf 21x-10 gathering pipeline (Appendix A). All construction disturbances would occur within a 100-foot

temporary construction right-of-way (ROW) and permanent surface disturbance would occur within a 50-foot-wide ROW between the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 well pad to the approved FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 gathering pipeline, which has been surveyed for impacts to natural and cultural resources with no significant findings. If electrical lines are installed in association with this project or to provide service to this project, they will be installed underground within the approved ROW. In total, approximately 31.8 acres will be disturbed as a result of activities associated with the construction of the proposed gathering pipelines. Pipeline plats are provided in Appendix A.

## **5. Surveys**

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted natural resource surveys for threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, bald and golden eagles, and wetlands on September 14, 2010. BIA Environmental Specialist Darryl Turcotte approved the location and alignment of the gathering lines. No protected species including threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, or bald/golden eagles were observed during the natural resource survey. One wetland was observed to occur within the proposed alignment; however no impacts are anticipated as the project proponent will utilize directional boring to entirely avoid disturbing the wetland.

A cultural resource inventory of this pipeline route was conducted by personnel of SWCA Environmental Consultants, using an intensive pedestrian methodology. Approximately 64.23 acres were inventoried on September 14, 2010 (Lechert 2011). No historic properties were located that appear to possess the quality of integrity and meet at least one of the criteria (36 CFR 60.6) for inclusion on the National Register. As the lead federal agency, and as provided for in 36 CFR 800.5, on the basis of the information provided, BIA reached a determination of **no historic properties affected** for this undertaking. This determination was communicated to the THPO on February 16, 2010; however the THPO did not respond within the allotted 30 day comment period.

Lechert, Stephanie

(2011) A Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Arrow XTO Darcie #34x-14 Gathering Line, Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, Dunn County, North Dakota. SWCA Environmental Consultants for Arrow Pipeline, LLC, Tulsa, OK.

## **6. Potential Effects**

Potential impacts to cultural resource sites would occur as a result of direct disturbance and/or the loss of sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Further, potential impacts to natural resources may include the loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitats; soil removal and mixing; and erosion during construction. However, potential impacts as a result of the proposed action were mitigated via field survey and subsequent avoidance of any eligible cultural resource sites within the proposed ROW, implementing a stormwater pollution prevention plan and best management practices, completing reclamation of the

pipeline corridors with native grasses and other appropriate native vegetation, and stockpiling and re-using topsoil for reclamation.

Potential indirect impacts include noise and other disturbances to wildlife during construction and the introduction of noxious weeds. Impacts would be mitigated through avoidance of any federally listed threatened or endangered species or wetlands, avoidance of nesting migratory birds, implementing best management practices to control the introduction of noxious weeds, and minimizing the length of time between trenching, pipeline burial, and reclamation. These mitigation measures are consistent with the approved National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document, which received a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) (October 2010).

Resource surveys and the supplementary assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed action were completed (September 2010); based on those surveys and the mitigation measures committed to by Arrow, no significant impacts to natural and cultural resources are anticipated.

## **7. Applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document(s)**

*Environmental Assessment: Arrow Pipeline, LLC, Oil, Gas, and Water Gathering System Phase 2E (August 2010).*

*Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connecting the FBIR Ironwoman 21x-10/ Yellowwolf 21x-10 Dual Well Pad to the Arrow Phase 2E Pipeline (January 2011).*

## **8. Other Relevant Documentation**

*Final Environmental Assessment: Darcie 34x-14 Exploratory Well, XTO Energy, Inc, (October 2010).*

## **9. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

This document has identified two previously prepared NEPA documents, *Environmental Assessment: Arrow Pipeline, LLC, Oil, Gas, and Water Gathering System Phase 2E (August 2010)* and *Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connection FBIR Ironwoman 21x-10/ Yellowwolf 21x-10 Dual Well Pad to the Arrow Phase 2E Pipeline (January 2011)* which adequately describes the environmental consequences of the newly proposed action described herein, and meets the following NEPA Adequacy Criteria.

1. The proposed action is substantially the same action and at the site specifically analyzed in the existing NEPA document.

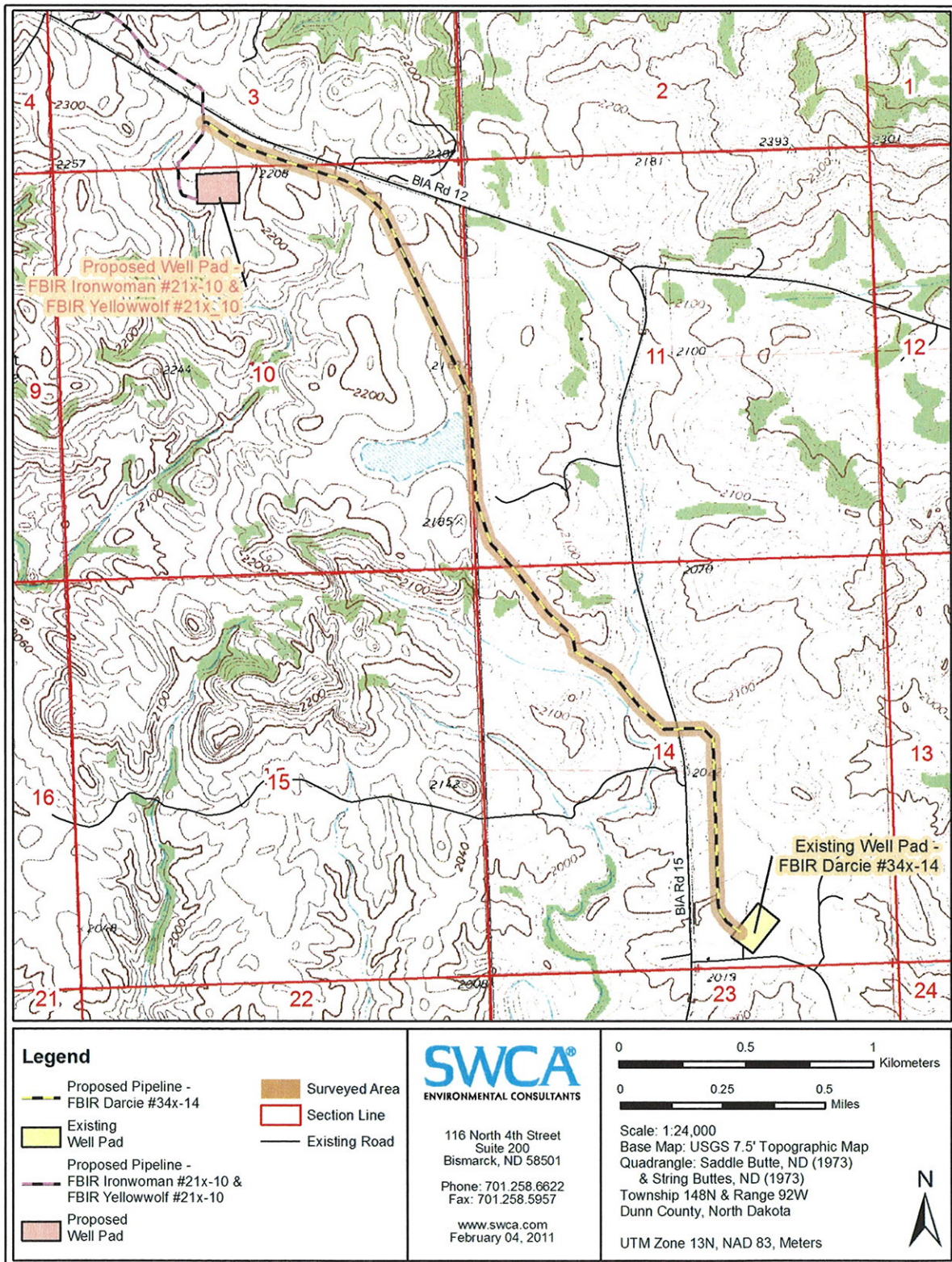
*Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connecting the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 Well Pad to the FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 gathering pipeline (March 2011)*

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2. The range of alternatives is reasonable with respect to the current proposed action in the existing NEPA document, which appropriately considers and analyzes current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values.
3. The existing analysis and conclusions are adequate in the existing NEPA document. The analysis is still valid in light of new studies or resource assessment information.
4. The methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document continues to be appropriate for the proposed action.
5. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document.
6. The cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action are unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document.
7. A 30-day comment period involving public input and interagency review was used in the development of the existing NEPA document.



*Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connecting the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 Well Pad to the FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 gathering pipeline (March 2011)*



**Figure 1. Proposed FBIR Darcie #34x-14 gathering line and associated well pad.**

*Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connecting the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 Well Pad to the FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 gathering pipeline (March 2011)*



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Great Plains Regional Office  
115 Fourth Avenue S.E.  
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401



FEB 16 2011

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
DESCRM  
MC-208

Elgin Crows Breast, THPO  
Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation  
404 Frontage Road  
New Town, North Dakota 58763

Dear Mr. Crows Breast:

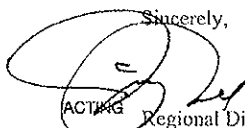
We have considered the potential effects on cultural resources of the proposed Arrow XTO Darcie 34x-14 Pipeline in Dunn County, North Dakota. Approximately 64.23 acres were intensively inventoried using a pedestrian methodology. Potential surface disturbances are not expected to exceed the area depicted in the enclosed report. No historic properties were located that appear to possess the quality of integrity and meet at least one of the criteria (36 CFR 60.4) for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. No properties were located that appear to qualify for protection under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 USC 1996).

As the surface management agency, and as provided for in 36 CFR 800.5, we have therefore reached a determination of **no historic properties affected** for this undertaking. Catalogued as **BIA Case Number AAO-1804/FB/10**, the proposed undertaking, location, and project dimensions are described in the following report:

Lechert, Stephanie  
(2011) A Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Arrow XTO Darcie #34x-14 Gathering Line, Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, Dunn County, North Dakota. SWCA Environmental Consultants for Arrow Pipeline, LLC, Tulsa, OK.

If your office concurs with this determination, consultation will be completed under the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations. The Standard Conditions of Compliance will be adhered to.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Carson N. Murdy, Regional Archaeologist, at (605) 226-7656.

Sincerely,  
  
ACTING Regional Director

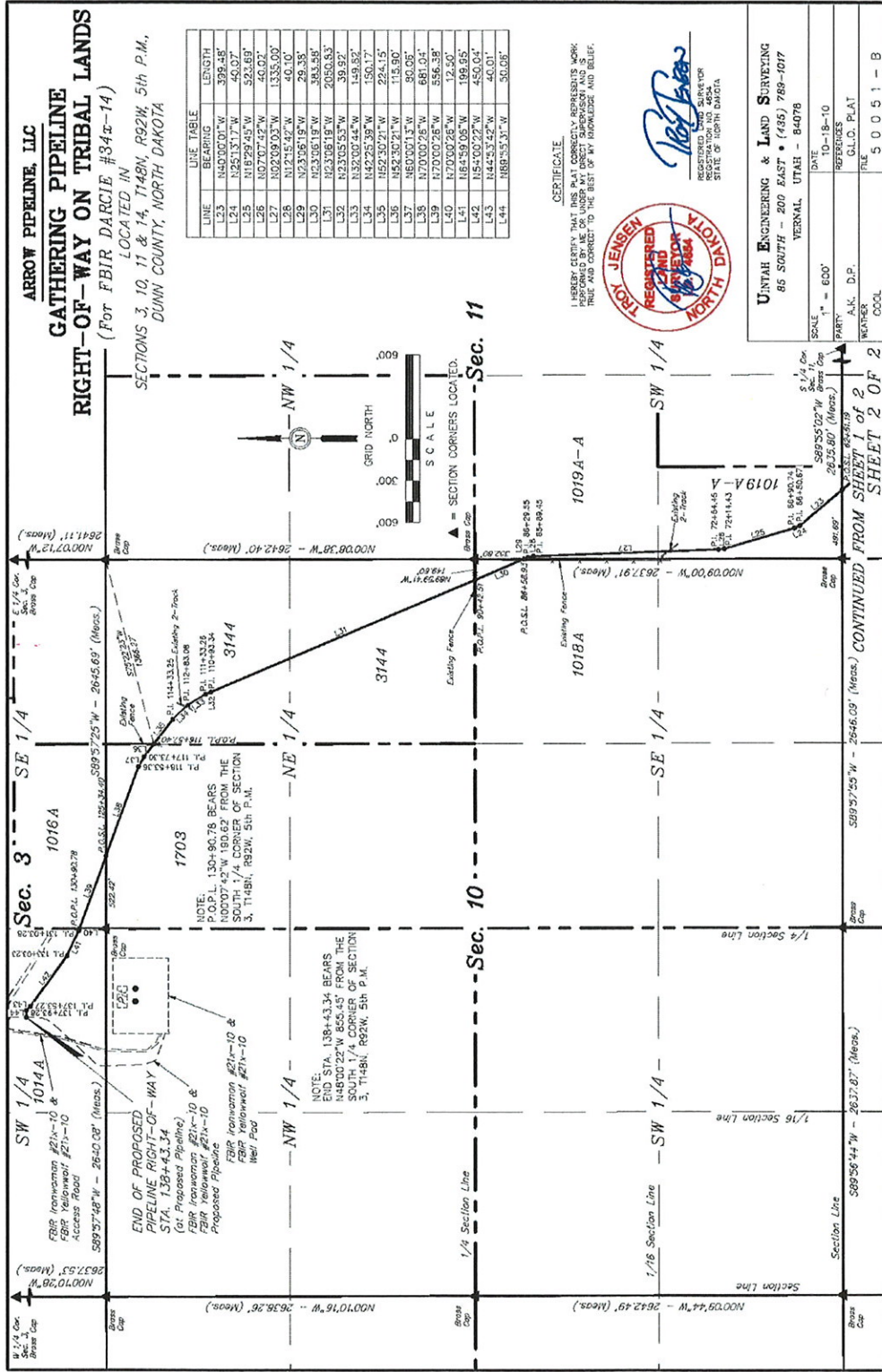
Enclosure

cc: Chairman, Three Affiliated Tribes  
Superintendent, Fort Berthold Agency

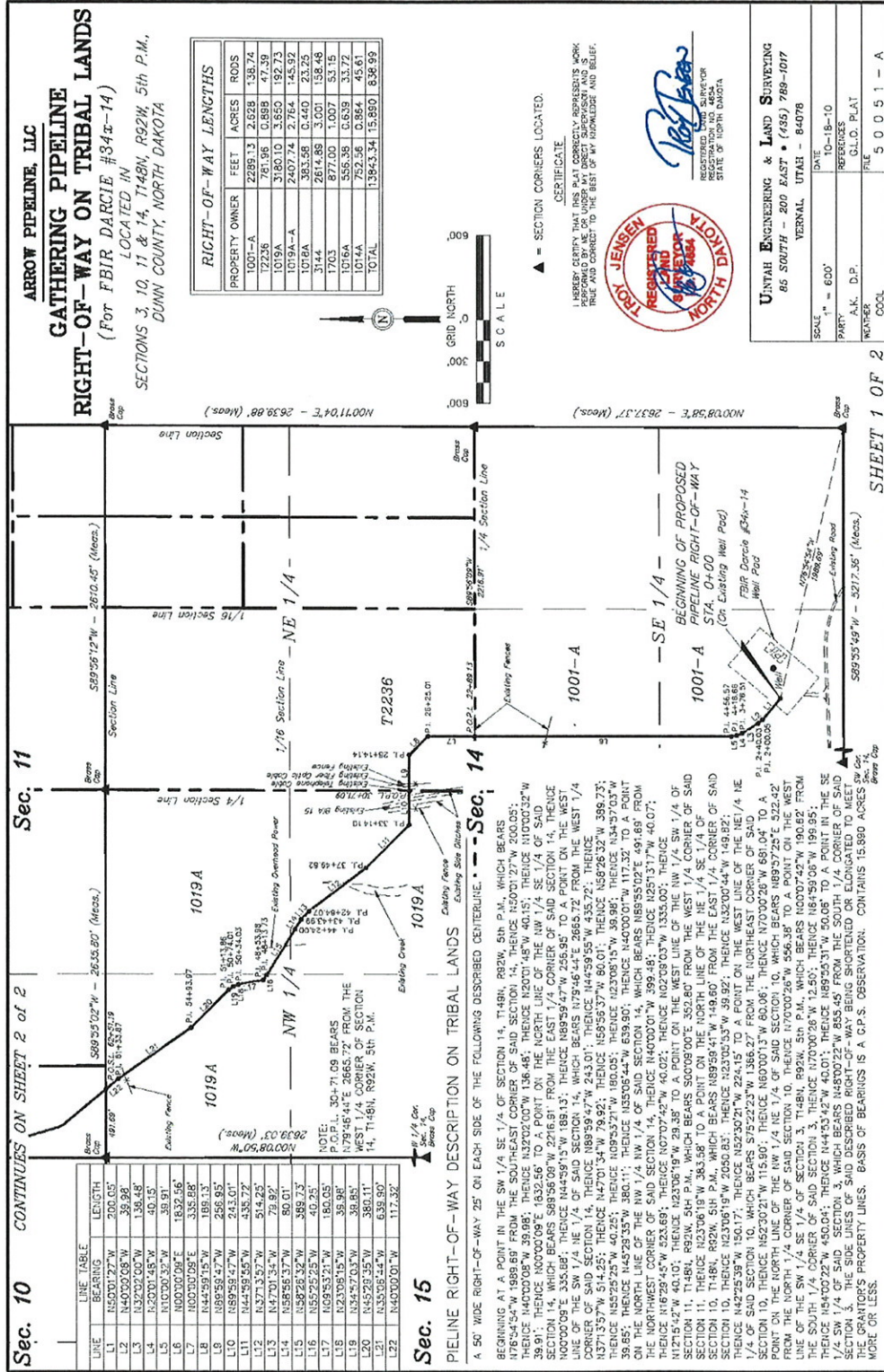
**APPENDIX A**

**Pipeline Layout and Pipeline Right-of-Way  
for the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 Gathering Pipelines**

Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connecting the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 Well Pad to the FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 gathering pipeline (March 2011)



Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connecting the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 Well Pad to the FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 gathering pipeline (March 2011)



# **Notice of Availability and Appeal Rights**

Arrow Pipeline: Gathering Pipelines Connecting the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 Well Pad to the FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 Gathering Pipeline

**The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is planning to issue administrative approvals related to an Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connecting the FBIR Darcie #34x-14 Well Pad to the FBIR Ironwoman #21x-10/ FBIR Yellowwolf #21x-10 Gathering Pipeline on the Fort Berthold Reservation as shown on the attached map. Construction by Arrow Pipeline, LLC is expected to begin in 2011.**

**An environmental assessment (EA) determined that proposed activities will not cause significant impacts to the human environment. An environmental impact statement is not required. Contact Howard Bemer, Superintendent at 701-627-4707 for more information and/or copies of the EA and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).**

**The FONSI is only a finding on environmental impacts – it is not a decision to proceed with an action and *cannot* be appealed. BIA’s decision to proceed with administrative actions *can* be appealed until April 16, 2011, by contacting:**

**United States Department of the Interior  
Office of Hearings and Appeals  
Interior Board of Indian Appeals  
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, Va 22203.**

**Procedural details are available from the BIA Fort Berthold Agency at 701-627-4707.**

**Project locations**

