

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS Great Plains Regional Office 115 Fourth Avenue S.E., Suite 400 Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401



IN REPLY REFER TO: DESCRM MC-208

OCT 13 2011

Tim Salginte

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Superintendent, Fort Berthold Agency

FROM:

Acting 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, an Addendum has been completed and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been issued. The addendum authorizes land use for gathering pipelines connecting the Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H Well to the Arrow Midstream Holdings, LLC oil and gas gathering pipeline system on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

All the necessary requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act have been completed. Attached for your files are copies 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 (40 C.F.R. Part 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)
Michael Madson, SWCA (with attachment)
Jonathon Shelman, Corps of Engineers (with attachment)
Jeff Hunt, Fort Berthold Agency

Finding of No Significant Impact Dakota-3 E&P

Addendum to Environmental Assessment Authorizing Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connecting the Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H Well to the Arrow Midstream Holdings, LLC Oil and Gas Gathering Pipeline System

Fort Berthold Indian Reservation McKenzie County, North Dakota

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has received a proposed Addendum to Environmental Assessment authorizing land use for gathering pipelines connecting the Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H Well to the Arrow Midstream Holdings, LLC Oil and Gas Gathering Pipeline System on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in McKenzie County, North Dakota. Associated federal actions by BIA include determinations of effect regarding cultural resources, approvals of leases, rights-of-way and easements, and a positive recommendation to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the Applications for Permit to Drill.

The potential of the proposed actions 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 EA, I have determined that the proposed projects 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, public safety, water resources, and cultural resources. The remaining 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 actions are designed to avoid adverse effects to historic, archaeological, cultural and traditional properties, sites and practices. Compliance with the procedures of the National Historic Preservation Act is complete.
- 5. Environmental justice was fully considered.

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- 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 projects will improve the socio-economic condition of the affected Indian community.

acting Regional Director

10-13-2011 Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT Addendum

United States Bureau of Indian Affairs

Great Plains Regional Office Aberdeen, South Dakota



Dakota-3 E&P

Addendum to Environmental Assessment Authorizing Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connecting the Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H Well to the Arrow Midstream Holdings, LLC Oil and Gas Gathering Pipeline System

Fort Berthold Indian Reservation

October 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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	$\underline{\mathbf{p}}_{:}$	age
1.	Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action	1
2.	Authorities	
3.	Legal Land Description for Proposed Action	1
4.	Scope of Work for Proposed Action	1
5.	Materials Information and Corrosion Rates	2
6.	Spill Response Plan	
7.	Pipeline Marking Procedures	3
8.	Quality Control/Quality Assurance Measures	3
9.	Valve Locations	
10.	Reclamation	
In	nterim Reclamation	3
Fi	inal Reclamation	4
11.	Surveys	5
12.	Potential Effects	6
13.	Applicable NEPA Document(s)	6
14.	Other Relevant Documentation	
15.	NEPA Adequacy Criteria	7
Figu	are P	age
1	Proposed Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H Gathering Pipelines.	8

Appendix

A Pipeline Layout and Pipeline Right-of-Way for the Dakota-3 Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H

1. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

Dakota-3 E&P (D3) proposes to construct 9,391 feet of oil, gas, and produced water gathering pipelines that would connect the existing Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H well to the existing Arrow Midstream Holdings, LLC Oil and Gas Gathering Pipeline system (Phase 1) on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. Developments have been proposed on land held in trust by the United States in McKenzie County, North Dakota. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is the surface management agency for potentially affected tribal lands and individual allotments. 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 D3 for the construction and installation of a gathering pipeline system that consists of one oil pipeline, one gas pipeline, and one produced water pipeline, all of which will not individually exceed a diameter of 8 inches. The proposed gathering pipeline system would transport oil, gas, and produced water from productive wells to markets and disposal facilities. If warranted, a buried electrical line may be installed in the future within the currently proposed right-of-way (ROW).

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 Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H gathering pipelines would be located on trust and fee land originating from the east side of the existing well pad in the NW¼ NE¼ of Section 18, Township (T) 149 North (N), Range (R) 94 West (W), 5th Prime Meridian (P.M.), McKenzie County, North Dakota, and terminating in the SW¼ NW¼ of Section 9, T149N, R94W, 5th P.M., where it will tie into the existing Phase 1 gathering pipeline system. This location is approximately 3.4 miles west of Mandaree, North Dakota.

4. Scope of Work for Proposed Action

D3 proposes to construct and install 9,391 feet (1.77 miles) of oil, gas, and produced water gathering pipelines, on trust and fee land, that will link the Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H well to the existing Phase 1 pipeline. Specifically, approximately 2,919 feet of proposed gathering pipelines will be located on trust land, with the remaining 6,472 feet located on fee land. Oil, gas, and produced 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 produced water pipeline would also be

no larger than 8 inches in diameter and constructed of Fiberspar[®] or similar material which is not subject to interior or exterior corrosion when transporting produced water.

In total, 18,782 feet (i.e., 9,391 feet of oil pipeline and 9,391 feet of gas pipeline) of steel pipe, and 9,391 feet of Fiberspar or similar pipe would be required to connect the Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H well with the Phase 1 pipeline (Appendix A). All construction disturbances would occur within a 100-foot-wide temporary ROW, consisting of 50 feet on either side of the centerline. The temporary ROW has been surveyed for impacts to natural and cultural resources with no significant findings. D3 will maintain a 50-foot-wide permanent ROW after construction has been completed. In total, approximately 6.70 and 14.86 acres would be disturbed on trust and fee land, respectively, as a result of activities associated with the construction of the proposed gathering pipelines.

5. Materials Information and Corrosion Rates

D3 proposes to construct the oil, gas, and water pipelines according to the specifications used by Arrow pipeline, LLC (Arrow). These specifications may vary as D3 may use different materials and methods to install the pipelines. If the technical specifications of the materials vary from those contained herein, D3 will provide the BIA with a revised technical specification explanation that contains the same or similar information as disclosed below.

Steel Pipe

D3 proposes to construct the oil, gas, and water pipelines using new steel pipe rated by the American Petroleum Institute (API) as 5L X52. D3 would ensure that each steel pipe segment is coated with approximately 14 to 16 millimeters of fusion bonded epoxy coating. Further, D3 would deploy an active cathodic protection system for all steel pipes, which further reduces the likelihood of external corrosion. D3 would ensure that each steel pipe segment is allotted a 1/16-inch corrosion allowance; however, because of the non-corrosive nature of Bakken crude and the low concentrations of hydrogen sulfide, D3 does not anticipate any external or internal corrosion during the operating lifetime of the pipe, which, at a minimum, is estimated to be 50 years.

Fiberspar® or Similar Pipe

D3 proposes to construct the produced water gathering pipeline using a material known as Fiberspar or one with the same corrosion resistant characteristics as Fiberspar. This type of material is not subject to internal or external corrosion.

6. Spill Response Plan

The operator has developed a Spill Response Plan (Plan) (Middick 2011¹) for the Phase 1 pipeline. The spill preventative measures and monitoring protocols, notification procedures, spill detection and on-scene spill mitigation procedures, response activities, contacts, training

¹ Middick, Andy. 2011. *Operations Monitoring and Spill Response Plan*. Blackshare Environmental Solutions. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

and drill procedures, and response plan review and update procedures, as referenced in the plan, apply to the proposed pipelines, so long as Arrow remains the operator. A copy of the plan has been filed with the BIA and D3 has legally committed to adhering to the procedures and requirements as defined by federal law (Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 194). D3 has committed to developing a project specific spill response plan that will be submitted to the BIA prior to the commencement of construction activities.

7. Pipeline Marking Procedures

D3 adheres to the requirements of 49 CFR 192.707 with regard to the marking of buried pipelines. Specifically, D3 would place pipeline markers within 1,000 feet of one another, at all public road crossings, railroad crossings, creek crossings, fence crossings, and at all points of major direction change.

8. Quality Control/Quality Assurance Measures

D3 purchases steel pipe that is rated as API 5L X52 and inspects all pipe while at the mill to ensure quality. D3 is also present to ensure that external epoxy coating is applied to a minimum thickness of 14 millimeters. During construction, all welds are visually inspected for quality and completeness by qualified professionals. Once welds have passed visual inspection, they are subjected to 100 percent Non Destructive Testing. After passing these tests, the weld areas are covered for corrosion protection. After the weld areas have been covered, the external coating of the pipe is inspected using a jeepmeter to detect holes and cracks. The pipe is lowered into the trench and buried. Prior to being put into service, the steel pipe is hydrotested to approximately 1.5 times the minimum design pressure of 1,180 pounds per square inch gauge (psig).

The produced water pipe is designed to sustain a minimum pressure of 750 psig and is hydrotested to approximately 900 psig prior to being approved for service.

9. Valve Locations

Two valves would be installed at each end of the proposed pipelines. One valve would be installed at the well location while the second valve would be installed at the proposed tie-in. The installation of two valves would allow D3 to isolate the proposed gathering pipelines if required.

10. Reclamation

Interim Reclamation

Reclamation would continue to occur over the life of the pipelines. Initial reclamation would be required after initial construction and then following any maintenance work or additions of infrastructure. Reclamation would be required before final abandonment of the decommissioned pipeline. A successful reclamation would at all times be the responsibility of the system's operator.

Trenches would be back-filled immediately after the pipe is installed and testing is complete, assuming frozen or saturated soils are not present. Back-fill piles would be stored opposite of the topsoil piles during construction. If construction is to occur during winter, D3 will partially fill the trench with useable, non-frozen, back-fill soil to the extent possible and cover the entire ROW including the trench with straw. The trench would be back-filled and topsoil distributed as soon as practicable after the soil has defrosted. Topsoil piles would be covered to eliminate the potential for rill erosion and subsequent loss of soil during spring snow melt and precipitation events.

Applicable short- and long-term best management practices would be used to minimize and control erosion in disturbed areas. To reduce compaction, the ROW would be plowed before the stockpiled topsoil is distributed.

The disturbed areas would be reclaimed and contoured as soon as possible after construction is complete (fall/spring). The ROW would be covered with stockpiled topsoil and reseeded with a seed mixture determined by the BIA. D3 would control noxious weeds within the ROW and other applicable facilities by approved chemical or mechanical methods. If seeding of the ROW does not occur due to growing season constraints, D3 will deploy approved weed-free hay across the entire ROW. The presence of hay across the ROW will reduce the potential for excessive erosion as a result of spring snow melt and precipitation.

The entire ROW would be monitored for erosion, subsidence, or noxious weeds. In areas where problems are found to occur, reclamation efforts would continue until the BIA feels the ROW is successfully reclaimed. Reclamation is considered successful when:

- seeded areas are established;
- adjacent vegetative communities spread back into the disturbed areas; and
- noxious weeds are under control.

If after two growing seasons the new seeding is not successful, the BIA may require additional efforts to establish vegetation. For noxious weeds, a survey was conducted on the ROW prior to the construction commencing. The BIA has developed a weed management plan to treat known or likely to occur noxious weed species.

Final Reclamation

Final reclamation would occur when the pipeline is decommissioned. All disturbed areas would be reclaimed, reflecting the BIA's view of oil and gas exploration and production as temporary intrusions on the landscape. All facilities would be removed. Access roads and work areas would be leveled or backfilled as necessary, scarified, recontoured, and seeded. Exceptions to these reclamation measures might occur if the BIA approves assignment of an access road either to the BIA roads inventory or to concurring surface allottees. It is economically and environmentally unfeasible to excavate and remove the decommissioned pipeline. Instead it would be purged with water of any natural gas remaining in the lines and abandoned in place.

11.Surveys

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted natural resource surveys of the proposed gathering pipelines, on trust land, connecting the Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H well to the Phase 1 pipeline on April 26, 2011. SWCA also completed survey of the pipelines on fee lands (in the vicinity of the Stevenson Well Pad) between the trust lands. Cursory surveys were conducted to identify sensitive habitats including forested upland/shrubland habitat and native mixed grass prairie habitat. Additionally, SWCA noted the location and presence of plant species listed as noxious by the State of North Dakota. SWCA conducted cursory surveys for threatened and endangered species and habitat, migratory birds and active nests, bald and golden eagle nests, and wetlands/waterbodies.

Common plant species encountered include little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium), green needlegrass (Nassella viridula), needle-and-thread (Hesperostipa comata), fringed sagewort (Artemisia frigida), silver sagebrush (Artemisia cana), silver buffaloberry (Shepherdia argentea), western snowberry (Symphoricarpos occidentalis), purple coneflower (Echinacea angustifolia), creeping juniper (Juniperus horizontalis), western wheatgrass (Pascopyrum smithii), and prairie cordgrass (Spartina pectinata).

Common wildlife species observed within or nearby the survey area include western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), and black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). SWCA ecologists observed no active or inactive migratory bird nests during the field survey. Four small areas of woody shrub vegetation were identified within the proposed ROW, as indicated in Figure 1.

No protected species including threatened and endangered species or bald/golden eagles were observed during the natural resource survey. No active migratory bird nests were observed. Additionally, no wetland areas were observed in the project area.

A cultural resource inventory of this pipeline route was conducted by personnel of SWCA Environmental Consultants, using an intensive pedestrian methodology. Approximately 46.69 acres were inventoried on April 23, 2011 (Reinhart et al. 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 July 1, 2011; however the THPO did not respond within the allotted 30 day comment period.

Reinhart, Damien, Chandler Herson and Judith Cooper

(2011) A Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H and Stevenson #15-8H Gathering Pipelines, Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, McKenzie County, North Dakota. SWCA Environmental Consultants for Dakota-3 E&P Company, LLC, Denver.

12.Potential Effects

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, and by implementing a stormwater pollution prevention plan and best management practices (BMPs), completing reclamation of the pipeline corridors with native grasses and other appropriate native vegetation, and stockpiling and re-using topsoil for reclamation. Soils observed in the project area are known to support native grassland vegetation, which may substantially increase the probability for successful and permanent reclamation, provided land reclamation takes place immediately after construction has ceased. BMPs would be used to prevent erosion, minimize runoff and loss of sediment, and ensure soil stabilization. The implementation of BMPs by the operator would reduce project effects and maintain negligible levels of erosion; therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated to soil resources or long-term impacts on vegetation or wildlife resources.

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, implementation of BMPs to control the introduction of noxious weeds, and minimization of 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 (March 2011).

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. Any 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. Resource surveys and the supplementary assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed action were completed (April 2011). Based on the surveys and the mitigation measures committed to by D3, no significant impacts to natural and cultural resources are anticipated.

13. Applicable NEPA Document(s)

Bureau of Indian Affairs 2010. Environmental Assessment: Two Bakken Exploratory Oil Wells: Dakota-3 Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H and Dakota-3 Spotted Horn #26-35H (March 2011).

14. Other Relevant Documentation

Environmental Assessment: Arrow Midstream Holdings, LLC Oil and Gas Gathering System (March 2009).

15.NEPA Adequacy Criteria

This document has identified one previously prepared NEPA document, *Environmental Assessment: Two Bakken Exploratory Oil Wells: Dakota-3 Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H and Dakota-3 Spotted Horn #26-35H* (March 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.
- 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.

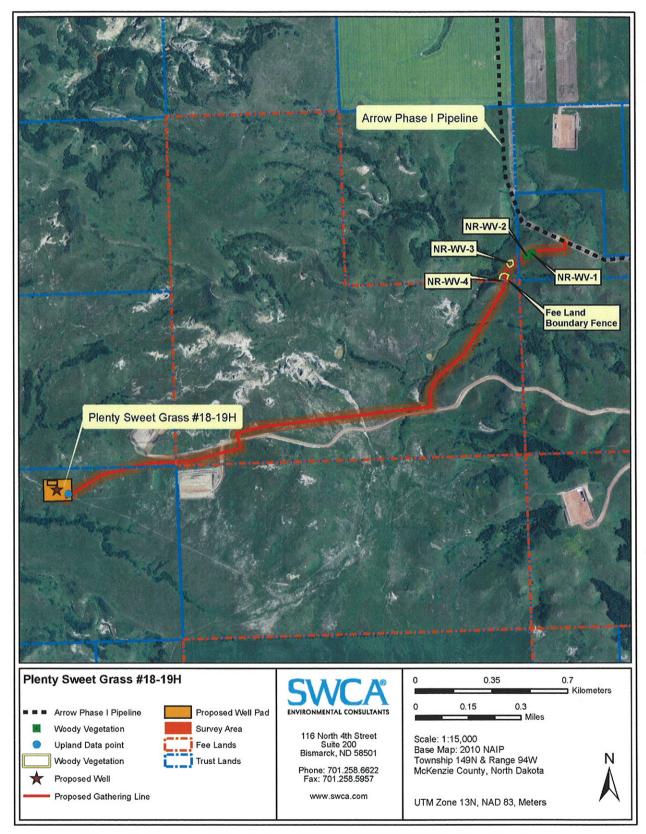


Figure 1. Proposed Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H Gathering Pipelines.



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS Great Plains Regional Office 115 Fourth Avenue S.E., Suite 400 Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401

IN REPLY REFER TO DESCRM MC-208

JUL C ZUM

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 two gathering pipelines in McKenzie County, North Dakota. Approximately 46.69 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 which 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 these undertakings. Catalogued as **BIA Case Number AAO-1948/FB/11**, the proposed undertakings, locations, and project dimensions are described in the following report:

Reinhart, Damien, Chandler Herson and Judith Cooper

(2011) A Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H and Stevenson #15-8H Gathering Pipelines, Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, McKenzie County, North Dakota. SWCA Environmental Consultants for Dakota-3 E&P Company, LLC, Denver.

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

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

Sincerely,

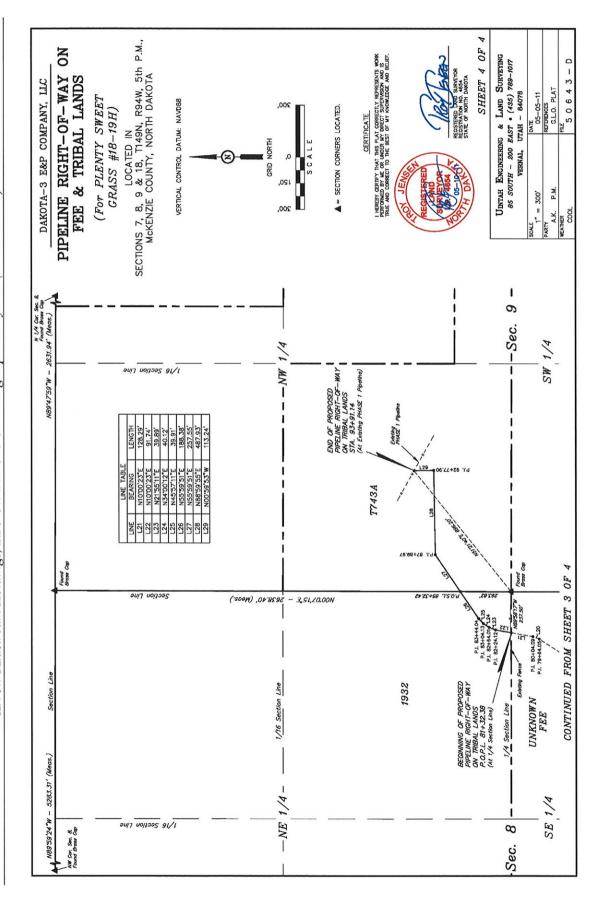
Enclosure

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

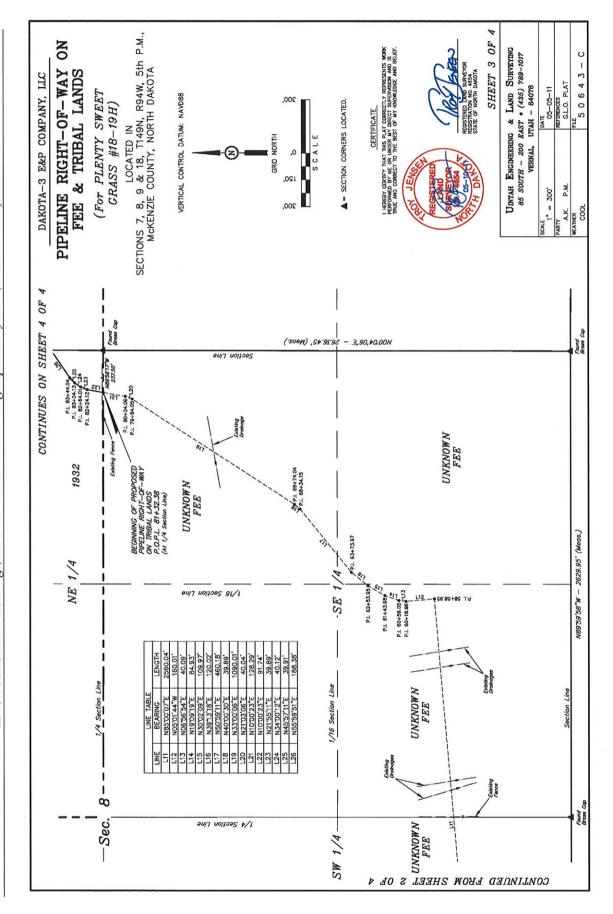
APPENDIX A

Pipeline Layout and Pipeline Right-of-Way for the Dakota-3 Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H

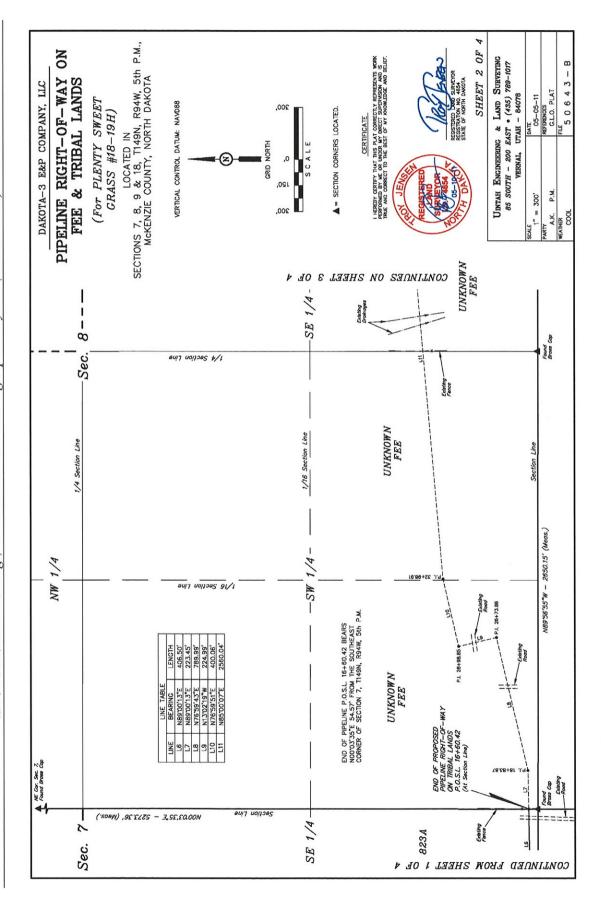
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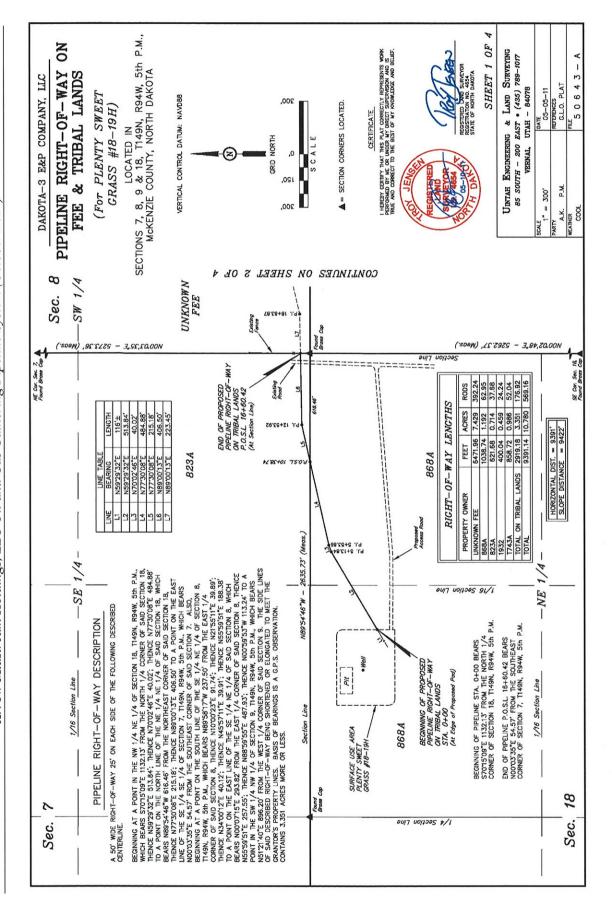


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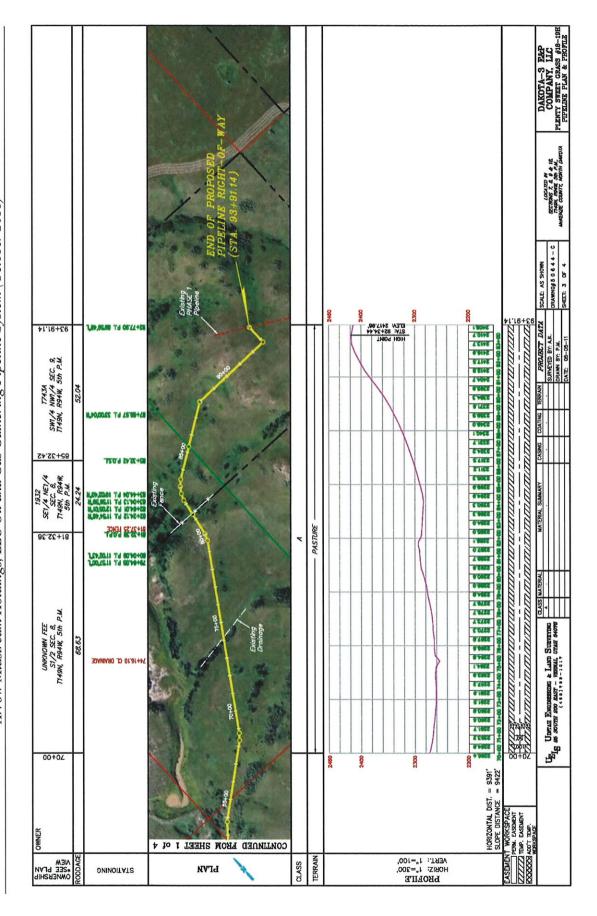


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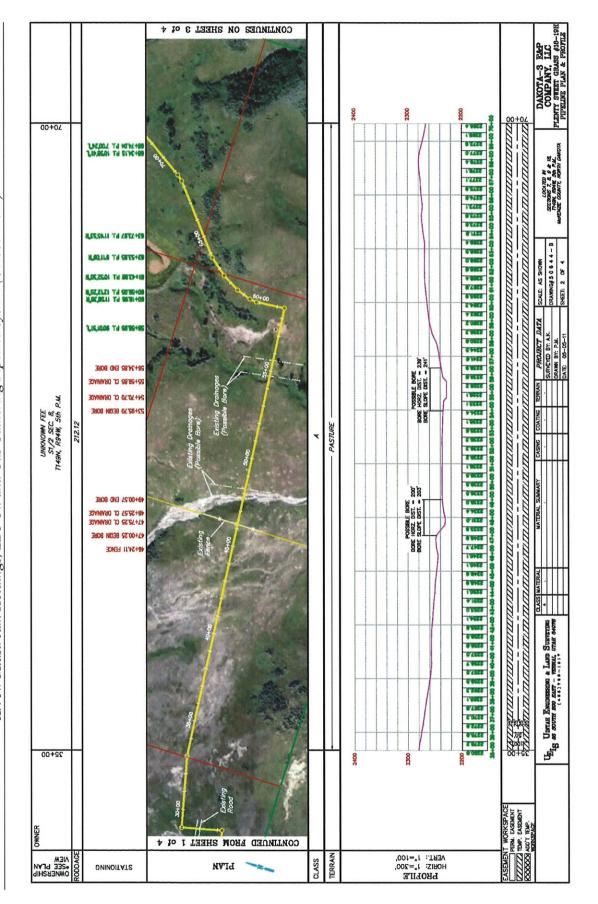




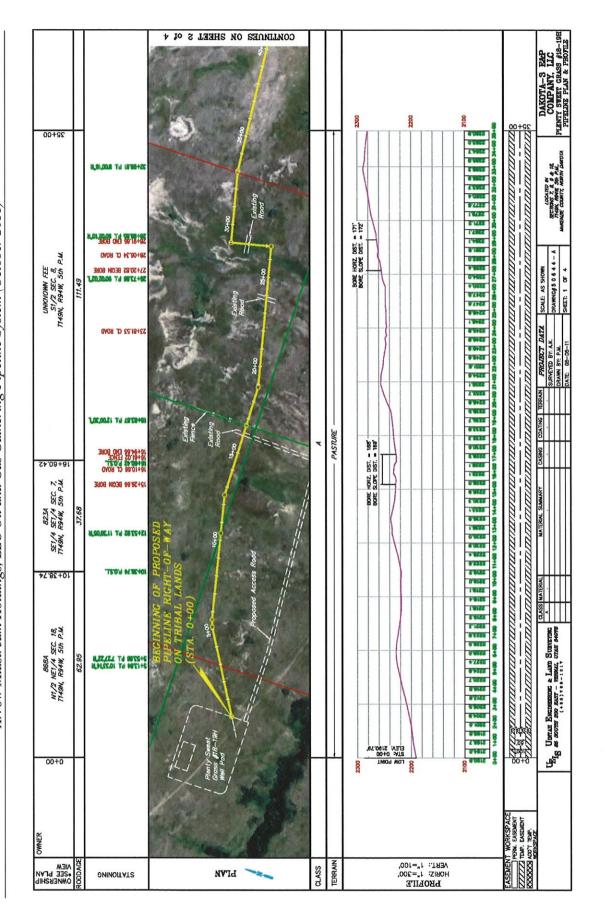
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Addendum to Environmental Assessment Authorizing Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connecting the Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H Well to the Arrow Midstream Holdings, LLC Oil and Gas Gathering Pipeline System (October 2011)



Notice of Availability and Appeal Rights

Dakota-3 E&P: Addendum to Environmental Assessment Authorizing Land Use for Gathering Pipelines Connecting the Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H Well to the Arrow Midstream Holdings, LLC Oil and Gas Gathering Pipeline System

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 Plenty Sweet Grass #18-19H Well to the Arrow Midstream Holdings, LLC Oil and Gas Gathering Pipeline System on the Fort Berthold Reservation as shown on the attached map. Construction by Dakota-3 E&P Resources 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 Earl Silk, 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 November 10, 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.

