

Department of Environmental Quality
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air and Waste Management Bureau
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ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ISSUED TO: North American Resources Company (NARCO), Bowdoin Compressor Station

PERMIT NUMBER: 2922-01

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION ON PERMIT ISSUED: 08/12/98

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) COMPLIANCE: An environmental assessment required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act, was completed for this project as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF SITE: SW¼, SE¼, Section 35, T35N, R31E, Phillips County.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: NARCO will install a third compressor engine, this engine will be a 1085 hp Caterpillar G3516TA LE instead of the 1665 hp Caterpillar G3606TA LE compressor engine that was originally planned.

BENEFITS AND PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL: The Bowdoin compressor station compresses field gas. Prior to entering the transmission system, the gas passes through a glycol dehydrator to remove moisture.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES WHENEVER ALTERNATIVES ARE REASONABLY AVAILABLE AND PRUDENT TO CONSIDER: No reasonable alternatives are available.

A LISTING AND APPROPRIATE EVALUATION OF MITIGATION, STIPULATIONS AND OTHER CONTROLS ENFORCEABLE BY THE AGENCY OR ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY: A list of enforceable permit conditions, including a best available control technology analysis, are contained in Air Quality Permit #2922-01.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF REGULATORY IMPACTS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS: The department has considered alternatives to the conditions imposed in this permit as part of the permit development. The department has determined that the permit conditions are reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with applicable requirements and to demonstrate compliance with those requirements and do not unduly restrict private property rights.

Potential Impact on Physical Environment

		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Attached
1	Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats			X			1
2	Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution				X		2
3	Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture				X		3
4	Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality				X		4
5	Aesthetics			X			5
6	Air Quality			X			6
7	Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resource			X			7
8	Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy			X			8
9	Historical and Archaeological Sites				X		9
10	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			10

Potential Impact on Human Environment

		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Attached
1	Social Structures and Mores				X		A
2	Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				X		A
3	Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue				X		B
4	Agricultural or Industrial Production				X		C
5	Human Health						D
6	Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities				X		E
7	Quantity and Distribution of Employment				X		A
8	Distribution of Population				X		A
9	Demands for Government Services			X			B
10	Industrial and Commercial Activity				X		C
11	Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals				X		F
12	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			G

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL IMPACTS: The following comments describe the impacts that would result from the operation of the compressor station.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats

The operation of the compressor station will produce emissions of criteria pollutants. These emissions, coupled with the existence of equipment on land, may have minor impacts to the habitats of fish and wildlife in the area. However, this site consists of a total property area of 8 acres and disturbance to the landscape will be minimal.

2. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

The actions addressed in this permit will not result in a change in the amount or characteristics of surface water discharged or the alteration of the course or magnitude of any drainage system. This action does not result in a change in the quality or quantity of ground water. Therefore, no impacts to water quality, quantity and distribution is anticipated.

3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture

The operation of this facility will not effect the geology or soil quality, stability or moisture.

4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality

The operation of this facility will not effect the quantity or quality of vegetation cover.

5. Aesthetics

The compressor buildings and pipelines will be visible, therefore the aesthetics will be changed by this facility, however, the facility is small and any impacts will be minor.

6. Air Quality

Emission of criteria pollutants have been calculated for this facility as follows:

PM-10	1.36	tons/yr
NOx	67.30	tons/yr
CO	47.16	tons/yr
VOC	8.15	tons/yr
SOx	0.06	tons/yr

There will be minor impacts to the air quality based on these emissions; however, the emissions calculated are below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Montana Ambient Air Quality Standards which are established at levels appropriate to protect human health and the environment.

7. Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources

This permitting action is not likely to result in even minor impacts to nesting grounds for the sensitive Common Tern which has been observed approximately 1 mile north of this site.

8. Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy

There are no expected demands on water resources for this facility. There will be minor impacts to the air and energy resources.

9. Historical and Archaeological Sites

There will be no new ground broken during this addition of the third engine and no new findings of artifacts are likely, however, if there should be findings NARCO should contact the State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society immediately.

10. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Minor cumulative and secondary impacts are possible, however, due to the low emission levels, this is not likely.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

1. Social Structures and Mores
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment
8. Distribution of Population

A. The social structures, mores, cultural uniqueness, diversity and distribution of population will not be impacted by this facility. This facility exists on only 8 acres and currently employs 2 individuals, no new employees will be hired as a result of this permitting action.

3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue
9. Demands of Government Services

B. The department does not expect the local or state taxes or demands on government services to be impacted by this permitting action. No additional wages or capital costs are expected.

4. Agricultural or Industrial Production

10. Industrial and Commercial Activity

- C. There will be no impacts to agricultural production by this facility. The industrial and commercial activities associated with this permitting action will be minor.

5. Human Health

- D. Due to the location of the facility and the proximity to population, coupled with the level of emissions which are below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Montana Ambient Air Quality Standards, the department feels the impacts to human health from this permitting action will be minimal.

6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

- E. The addition of the third engine will not cause any interference to access or quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

- F. This facility is not expected to impact any locally adopted environmental plans or goals.

12. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

- G. Cumulative and secondary impacts will be minor as the permitted level of emissions takes into consideration the background levels and ensures standards, protective of human health and the environment, are being met.

RECOMMENDATION: An EIS is not required.

IF AN EIS IS NOT REQUIRED, EXPLAIN WHY THE EA IS AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ANALYSIS: This facility is not a major stationary source and any potential impacts will be minor.

OTHER GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED OR WHICH MAY HAVE OVERLAPPING JURISDICTION: None.

INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EA:

Department of Environmental Quality, Permitting and Compliance Division.
State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society.
Montana Natural Heritage Program

EA PREPARED BY: Lana Hedlund

DATE: 08/05/98