Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

BUFFALO HEAD SUBSTATION PROJECT
DOE/EA-1938

ADOPTION OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (DOCUMENT NO. WY-050-EA11-108) GRIEVE UNIT CO_2 ENHANCED RECOVERY PROJECT NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration

ACTION: Adoption of Environmental Assessment and Issuance of Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management, Lander Field Office (BLM) issued an Environmental Assessment (EA) (July 26, 2012) and coordinated with the Department of Energy (DOE), Western Area Power Administration (Western) for the proposed action of authorizing the Grieve Unit CO_2 Enhanced Oil Recovery Project. BLM issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) following its evaluation of the proposed action to approve applications for permit to drill, sundry notices to rework existing wells, and rights-of-way.

In addition to the proposed action, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri-State), under an existing agreement, applied to Western requesting a new network delivery point on behalf of its member, High Plains Power, Inc. The delivery point would be at a new Buffalo Head switching station constructed by Western and located on the existing Badwater-Spence 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. This new delivery point would accommodate Tri-State's request to provide up to 20 megawatts of electric service to new loads associated with a CO_2 injection and recovery facility being developed by Elk Petroleum Limited as discussed in the BLM EA.

ADOPTION: Western has reviewed BLM's EA "Grieve Unit CO_2 Enhanced Recovery Project, Natrona County, Wyoming" (BLM Document No. WY-050-EA11-108) and has concluded that the EA adequately describes Western's action, is satisfactory for DOE purposes, and that BLM's public involvement process is equivalent to DOE's. Western hereby adopts the BLM EA as a DOE Environmental Assessment, DOE/EA-1938.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Additional information and copies of the EA and the FONSI are available to all interested parties and the public from the following contact:

Mr. Gene Iley, Jr.
Environmental Manager, NEPA Compliance Officer
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, Colorado
Phone: (970) 461-7294
Fax: (970) 461-7204
Iley@wapa.gov

The EA and FONSI can be downloaded from Western's website at:
https://www.wapa.gov/rm/Environment/default.htm

For further information on the DOE NEPA process, contact:

Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom
Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585
202-586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756

DETERMINATION: Based on information contained in DOE/EA-1938, Western has determined that its action to provide a new network delivery point under an existing agreement does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

Issued at Loveland, Colorado on 9/13, 2012.

Bradley S. Warren
Regional Manager