

Applicant's Proposal

Lavaca Pipeline Company has requested to purchase a 30-foot-wide pipeline easement across a 203-foot-long section of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge NWR in Brazoria County, Texas. The (ROW) permit would enable the applicant to install, own, and operate a 16-inch-diameter steel pipeline to transport ethane gas. The requested ROW overlies an existing ROW easement, and the pipeline would be laid parallel to an already existing pipeline. The applicant's pipeline would be installed by means of a conventional bore technique under refuge land; therefore, the process would not require trenching on refuge lands. No additional easement boundaries beyond the existing ROW are required. The bore holes will be located 300 feet outside the refuge property line on adjacent private lands.

Background

Lavaca Pipeline Company is constructing a 16-inch-diameter pipeline for the transportation of ethane through Galveston, Brazoria, Matagorda, and Wharton Counties in Southeast Texas. Lavaca Pipeline is making efforts to co-locate the pipeline within existing pipeline ROW corridors. Lavaca Pipeline has requested to cross the San Bernard NWR along an existing ROW. Although a new ROW is being requested, an existing ROW and pipeline are already in place. The existing pipeline ROW is not an exclusive easement; therefore, additional ROWs and pipelines can be installed within the same cleared corridor. The requested permit would allow for the pipeline to cross a narrow (203-foot-wide) strip of refuge that connects two larger parcels and is commonly referred to as the Sulfur Ditch.

Compatibility Determination

In our compatibility determination, which was approved on July 26, 2017, we determined that placing the pipeline across this narrow (203-foot-wide) strip would minimize the impact to other refuge lands. Several options were evaluated, but it was determined that they would have resulted in greater impact than this proposal.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal

identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Authority

We provide this notice under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715d).

Dated: November 6, 2017.

Lueders,

Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

**[LLCAD08000.18XL1109AF.
L12200000.EA0000.LXSSB0280000]**

Notice of Temporary Closure on Public Lands for the Annual King of the Hammers Race, San Bernardino County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of temporary closure.

SUMMARY: As authorized under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is giving notice that certain public lands located near Johnson Valley, California, within the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, will be temporarily closed to all public use to enhance public safety during Hammering Productions' annual King of the Hammers desert race authorized under a Special Recreation Permit (SRP). This action is in effect for King of the Hammers, which takes place annually, during a 9-day period.

DATES: This Notice is effective from February 2, 2018, through February 10, 2018. The Hammering Productions SRP for this event is valid until February 22, 2022.

ADDRESSES: The BLM will post the temporary closure notice and a map of the temporary closure area on the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/>

california; and at the following BLM offices: California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553; and Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311. Notice of the 9-day temporary closure period for subsequent races will be published in annual news releases and posted on the BLM website at least 30-days in advance of the event.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beth Ransel, District Manager, California Desert District, telephone: 951-697-5200, email: bransel@blm.gov; or Katrina Symons, Barstow Field Manager, telephone: 760-252-6004, email: ksymons@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individuals during normal business hours. The Service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individuals. You will receive a reply during normal hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The dates for King of the Hammers, the dates of the temporary closure, and a map of the closure area will be posted at the California Desert District Office, the Barstow Field Office, and on the BLM website at the addresses provided above every year at least 30 days prior to the event. The dates are also available upon request.

This temporary closure applies to all public use, including pedestrian use and vehicles. The BLM will also post the temporary closure notice and map of the temporary closure area at the main entry points into the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area. The annual temporary closure will comply with the management plan for the area, ensuring that when the annual temporary closure period includes a Saturday or Sunday, a minimum of three staging areas within the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area will remain open to the public on those weekend days.

Exclusive Use: The area will be for exclusive use of King of the Hammers participants, registered spectators for the King of the Hammers, and other authorized users with an authorized SRP valid for activities within the temporary closure area. For the temporary closure area, anyone without a SRP authorizing use within the temporary closure area during the temporary closure period is prohibited from using the area.

Exceptions: Temporary closure restrictions do not apply to medical and rescue personnel in the performance of their official duties; official United

States military and Federal, State, and local law enforcement; Federal, State and local officers and employees in the performance of their official duties; King of the Hammers event officials and race participants; vendors with a valid BLM SRP; and registered event spectators.

Enforcement: Any person who violates the temporary closure order may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined in accordance with 18 U.S.C. 3571, imprisoned no more than 12 months under 43 U.S.C. 1733(a) and 43 CFR 8360.0–7, or both. In accordance with 43 CFR 8365.1–7, State or local officials may also impose penalties for violations of California law.

Authority: 43 CFR 8360.0–7 and 8364.1

Beth Ransel,

California Desert District Manager.

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BILLING CODE 4310–40–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

[S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000
189S180110; S2D2S SS08011000
SX064A000 18XS501520]

Notice of Availability of the Western Energy Company's Rosebud Mine Area F Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Western Energy Company's Rosebud Mine Area F (Project) in southeastern Montana and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is a co-lead on this EIS process.

DATES: To ensure comments will be considered, OSMRE will accept electronic or written comments on or before 45 days from the date that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. OSMRE will publish in the **Federal Register** and/or local newspapers the date, time, and location of the public meeting on the Draft EIS. If you are a

disabled individual who needs reasonable accommodation to attend the public meeting, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** after we publish the notice of the specific meeting location and date.

ADDRESSES: The Draft EIS is available for review at: <https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/westernEnergy/documentLibrary.shtm>. Paper and computer compact disk (CD) copies of the Draft EIS are available for review at the OSMRE Western Region Office, 1999 Broadway Street, Suite 3320, Denver, Colorado 80202. In addition, a paper and CD copy of the Draft EIS is available for review at each of the following locations:

Rosebud County Library, 201 North 9th Avenue, Forsyth, MT 59327.

Between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday; 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday (Closed Sunday)

Montana DEQ Headquarters (Lee Metcalf Building), 1520 East 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620.

Between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

BLM Miles City Field Office, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT 59301. Between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

BLM State Office, Billings, MT, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101. Between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Logan Sholar, OSMRE Project Coordinator; Telephone: 303–293–5036; Address: 1999 Broadway Street, Suite 3320, Denver, Colorado 80202–3050; email: lsholar@osmre.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Project Purpose
- II. Background on the Rosebud Mine
- III. Background on the Project
- IV. Alternative

I. Project Purpose

The purpose of the Project is to consider continued operations at the Rosebud Mine by permitting and developing a new surface mine permit area, known as permit Area F. Western Energy submitted a permit application to DEQ for the proposed 6,746-acre permit Area F (also referred to as the project area) at the Rosebud Mine, which is an existing 25,455-acre surface coal mine annually producing 8.0 to

10.25 million tons of low-sulfur subbituminous coal. If DEQ approves the permit and a Federal mining plan for the Project is approved as proposed, at the current rate of production, the operational life of the Rosebud Mine would be extended by 8 years. Mining operations in the project area, which would commence after all permits and approvals have been secured and a reclamation and performance bond has been posted, would last 19 years. Western Energy estimates that 70.8 million tons of recoverable coal reserves exist in the project area and would be removed during the 19-year operations period. As with other permit areas of the Rosebud Mine, all coal would be combusted locally at the Colstrip and Rosebud Power Plants.

Western Energy is required to obtain a surface coal mine operating permit (pursuant to the Montana Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act (MSUMRA), Section 82–4–221 *et seq.*, Montana Code Annotated) and approval of a Federal surface mining plan (30 CFR 746) for proposed permit Area F. OSMRE's purpose for the Project is to review and make a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) in the form of a Mining Plan Decision Document to approve, disapprove, or approve with conditions, the proposed Federal surface mining plan for the Project. The ASLM will decide whether the mining plan is approved, disapproved, or approved with conditions.

DEQ's purpose for the Project is to review and make a decision on Western Energy's surface mine operating permit application under MSUMRA and to review and make decisions on the following related permits: (1) An application for a new Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit, and (2) an application to modify Montana Air Quality Permit #1570*07 to include the project area. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a cooperating agency on the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS evaluates the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on the environment.

OSMRE is complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA Section 106)(16 U.S.C. 470f), as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3), concurrently with the NEPA process, including public involvement requirements and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Historic Preservation Officers with Tribal nations. Native American Tribal consultations are ongoing and have been conducted in accordance with