



File Code: 1950/2720

Date: May 4, 2011

Dear Interested Party,

The McKenzie Ranger District is analyzing a proposed project called *Bear Paw Energy, L.L.C., Garden Creek NGL Pipeline Proposal*. What is outlined here is **not** a final decision. We need your input on this project now so that we can have the best information available to make a final decision. Please take time to read this project proposal and comment if you would like.

WHAT ARE WE PROPOSING TO DO?

The Forest Service has received a proposal from Bear Paw Energy, L.L.C. (Bear Paw) requesting use of National Forest System land for the purpose of constructing and operating a natural gas pipeline. See the enclosed map of the proposal.

WHERE IS IT?

The proposed project is located on National Forest System lands in Sections 5, 6, and 7 T147N, R103W; Sections 7, 9, and 10, T147N, R104W; Sections 2, 11, and 12, T147N, R105W; Sections 23, 26, 27, 32, 33, and 34, T148N, R103W; and Sections 34 and 35, T148N, R105W, all within the 5th Principal Meridian, McKenzie County, North Dakota.

The project area is in the southwest portion of McKenzie County, North Dakota. Please see the enclosed map.

This project is located within **Management Area 6.1-Rangeland with Broad Resource Emphasis**.

In this management area, ecological conditions will be maintained while emphasizing vegetation structure and composition that consider the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of development, commodity uses, and activity; density of facilities; and evidence of vegetative manipulation. Oil and gas leasing and development are allowed.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED?

Bear Paw needs this pipeline to transport the natural gas liquids (NGL) from the Garden Creek Gas Plant Facility to their existing station in Sidney, Montana. The guidelines within the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Management Plan recommend proposed linear utilities try to follow existing utility routes and roads. With the exception of one location, this proposal is designed to follow the existing Lewis and Clark natural gas pipeline that was constructed this past winter (completed in March 2011). A deviation from the existing corridor is necessary due to steep topography and very limited space along the existing pipeline. This area is in Sections 2, 11, and 12, T147N, R105W. See the enclosed map.

WHAT CONCERNS HAVE WE IDENTIFIED WITH THIS PROPOSAL?

A team of resource specialists will evaluate the effects of this proposal on wildlife, plants, heritage resources, soils, water and recreation. Biological evaluations for federally endangered, threatened, proposed and Forest Service sensitive species will be completed.



The results of these evaluations will be documented and will be contained in an analysis file for this project.

WHAT DECISION WILL BE MADE?

I, as District Ranger, have authority to decide whether or not to approve the proposal made by Bear Paw. If approved, I will decide under what terms and conditions the development should occur, such as timing restrictions to reduce disturbance to wildlife, recreation or other concerns; rehabilitation requirements such as using native grass seed to revegetate the site; and size of the area where ground disturbance will occur.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have concerns or ideas about this project proposal, or if you know of any special features that exist in the area (e.g., domestic water sources, wildlife sites, noxious weeds, etc.), please let us know. Be as specific as possible in your comments, as we can better address your concerns if you are specific. The interdisciplinary team for this project will review your comments and may use them to refine the proposal or generate additional alternatives. The team will then analyze the probable environmental effects of carrying out the proposal or one of its associated alternatives, and I will make a decision about the project.

You may give your comments to the Forest Service in the following ways:

Send a letter, to:

Kim Grotte, Project Coordinator
McKenzie Ranger District
1901 South Main Street
Watford City, ND 58854

Visit project coordinator, Kim Grotte, at the McKenzie Ranger District office in Watford City (see address above).

Call the project coordinator, Kim Grotte, at 701-842-2394 ext 12.

Send an e-mail to Kim Grotte at his internet address, kgrotte@fs.fed.us.

Specify in your correspondence that you are addressing the *Bear Paw Energy Garden Creek NGL Pipeline Proposal*.

Please have your comments to us by May 24, 2011.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered, however, those submitting anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215.

Sincerely,



RONALD E. HECKER
District Ranger

Enclosure

Bear Paw Energy L.L.C.

Garden Creek NGL Pipeline Route Proposal of Approximately 60,000 feet of 10 Inch Steel Natural Gas Pipeline on NFS lands in

Sections 5, 6, & 7, T147N, R103W,

Sections 7, 9, & 10, T147N, R104W,

Sections 2, 11, & 12, T147N, R105W,

Sections 23, 26, 27, 32, 33, & 34, T148N, R103W,

Sections 34, & 35, T148N, R105W, 5th PM,

McKenzie County, North Dakota.

