



League of Women Voters of Montezuma County  
P.O. Box 1753  
Cortez, Colorado 81321  
May 3, 2010

Mr. Tom Rice, Natural Resource Specialist  
USDI Bureau of Land Management  
Dolores Public Lands Center  
Dolores, Colorado

Reference: Environmental Assessment CO-800-2009-043, Kinder Morgan  
Proposed Goodman Point Development Project

Dear Mr. Rice,

The League of Women Voters of Montezuma County has the following comments and concerns on the subject Environmental Assessment for Kinder Morgan's proposed six new wells for carbon dioxide extraction and associated pipeline system.

***INADEQUATE AIR QUALITY MONITORING --***

The air quality monitoring at the south end of Mesa Verde National Park, some 21-22 miles to the southeast of the proposed locations of three well-pads and support pipeline is cited on p. 88 as being a specific management criteria that may be utilized to ensure regulatory compliance of the project, and to evaluate cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action. The draft document fails to make a credible argument as to how the Mesa Verde air monitoring relates to the possible air quality impacts of the proposed action. The document fails to describe what relevant data are being collected and reported at the Mesa Verde station, which may pertain to the Proposed Action. The draft fails to disclose how relevant Mesa Verde air monitoring data might be used to insure regulatory compliance. In fact, Section 11.0 on Consultations, (including Table 10 in Sec. 11.0) provides no evidence that the BLM has even discussed use of Mesa Verde air quality monitoring data with the National Park Service. The draft fails to discuss benchmarks for how the evaluation of air quality data will affect day to day operational decisions and health and safety protocols in the drilling, production, and transport of carbon dioxide. Our review demonstrates that the BLM and the

Environmental Assessment (EA) Contractor are not serious about any systematic monitoring and assessment of 1.) The effects of the Proposed Action on air quality in the immediate project area, or 2.) The effects on the natural resources and recreation visitor health within the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument or on private landowners and livestock adjoining the Monument lands.

To correct this inadequacy, the only credible approach is for a BLM Condition of Approval to be placed on Kinder Morgan that requires credible air quality monitoring be conducted at one station representative of the two proposed well pads near Burro Point. A second BLM Condition of Approval should be included that requires a second air quality monitoring station to be installed at a location representative of the proposed 1,676 foot pipeline system. Each of these new monitoring stations should address Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standards relevant to potential emissions at the well pads and from possible pipeline leaks, and State standards.

Without credible air quality monitoring in the immediate project vicinity, there no way that the BLM can substantiate their statement in Section 8.2.1 that:

*“These sources of air quality impacts in conjunction with the Proposed Action are not anticipated to cumulatively create impacts that would cause the project area to be in non-attainment with the US EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards or with the Colorado Department of Health and Environment. “*

Because the EA draft presently has no serious commitment to monitor the effects of the Proposed Action on air quality, it is no surprise to find that the Conditions of Approval (COA) section of Reclamation (and the 13 draft provisions therein) make no reference to the consequences of a violation of a National Ambient Air Quality Standard or a State of Colorado air quality standard.

To correct this inadequacy, the League requests that COA Reclamation condition # 11 be modified to read as follows:

***“The period of liability under the bond of record will not be terminated until each well, and the new pipeline is inspected, and the surface reclamation approved AND until the Colorado Department of Public health & Environment has certified to the BLM Authorized Officer that, based on project-scale monitoring of air quality at the site, there have been no recorded levels of air quality constituents that are considered exceedances of National Air Quality Ambient Standards, or that are considered exceedances of appropriate standards of the CDPHE”***

## **INADEQUATE DESCRIPTION OF WATER QUALITY MONITORING --**

Water quality monitoring in McElmo Creek by the BLM and the State of Colorado (on p. 88 ) is cited as being another specific management criteria that may be utilized to ensure regulatory compliance of the project, and to evaluate cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action. Because the draft Environmental Assessment provides no description of where along McElmo Creek such monitoring will take place, or where it has taken place, or what constituents will be monitored, and the associated protocols, we cannot validate the design and efficiency of such monitoring. Therefore we question the adequacy of water quality monitoring and therefore the compliance of the BLM Authorized Officer with the Clean Water Act, and with water quality standards of the Colorado Water Pollution Control Division.

In summary, we believe that the draft EA inadequately addresses air and water quality impacts, and we believe that the document fails to identify serious air and water monitoring commitments. The Conditions of Approval do not contain the necessary elements that assure that Kinder Morgan's Proposed Action will achieve compliance with the clean air and water standards through the life of the project.

Please send us a copy of your response to each of the above comments, and send us a copy of the Authorized Officer's Decision Document together with the final Conditions of Approval.

Sincerely,



Jodi Foran, President, [League of Montezuma County](#)  
32323 County Road M  
Mancos, CO 81328