

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0022-EA
December 2013**

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0022-EA
December 2013

EOG Resources requests authorization to install one Caterpillar G3408TA skid mounted engine (or equivalent) with associated H₂S treatment facilities on an existing well pad and to install a surface pipeline along the existing road/pipeline corridor for gas lift on 5 wells

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Chapter 1. Introduction

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1.1. Identifying Information:

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of EOG's installation of one Caterpillar G3408TA skid mounted gas engine (or equivalent) with associated H₂S treatment facilities on the existing well pad East Chapita 14–23Z. with construction of 2753 feet of 3 inch and 4504 feet of 2 inch surface pipeline along the existing road/pipeline connecting these five wells; East Chapita Well (ECW) 14–23Z, ECW 78–23, ECW 79–23, ECW 80–23, and ECW 81–23 corridor for gas lift in the Chapita Wells area of Uintah County, Utah. . All construction activity is within in T9S R23E Sec 23, Uintah County, Utah. Federal Lease UTU-67868. No new surface disturbance will be required.

The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result from the implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives to the Proposed Action. The EA assists the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in project planning ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any “significant” impacts could result from the analyzed actions. (“Significance” is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 CFR 1508.27.) An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) statement. A FONSI statement is a document that briefly presents the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative would not result in “significant” environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan (BLM 2008). If the decision maker determines that this project has “significant” impacts following the analysis in the EA, then an EIS would be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record may be signed for the EA approving the alternative selected.

1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0022

EOG Resources requests authorization to install a Caterpillar G3408TA Skid mounted Gas engine (or equivalent) with associated H₂S treatment facilities on one existing well pad and to install 2753 feet of 3 inch and 4504 feet of 2 inch surface pipeline connecting these 5 wells; ECW 14–23Z, ECW 78–23, ECW 79–23, ECW 80–23, and ECW 81–23 along the existing road/pipeline corridor for gas lift within T9S R23E Sec 23, Uintah County Utah.

1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:

T9S R23E Sec 23

Uintah County, Utah

1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:

Vernal Field Office

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

170 South 500 East

Vernal, Utah 84078

Phone: (435) 781-4400

FAX: (435) 781-4410

1.1.5. Applicant Name:

EOG Resources

1060 East Hwy. 40

Vernal, UT 84078

1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:

Private exploration and production from federal oil and gas leases is an integral part of the BLM oil and gas leasing program under authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987. The operator has a valid existing right to extract mineral resources from Federal Lease UTU-67868 to be subject to the leases' terms and conditions. The BLM oil and gas leasing program encourages development of domestic oil and gas reserves and the reduction of U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources. The BLM's purpose is to allow beneficial use of the applicant's lease in an environmentally sound manner.

The underlying need for the proposed action is for EOG Inc. to develop Federal Leases UTU-67868 by installation of the proposed compressor, H₂S facilities and pipeline and if successful, to produce commercial quantities of gas from its federal oil and gas lease.

1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:

The proposed project was posted to the e-planning NEPA Register on 11/21/2013. No public inquiry has been received. BLM scoping of the project occurred as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist. Identified Issues are as follows.

- Air Quality: Emissions from operation of the engine will have the potential to impact local air quality.

Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives

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2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:

EOG Resources requests authorization to install a Caterpillar G3408TA Skid mounted Gas engine (or equivalent) with associated H₂S treatment facilities on one existing well pad and to install 2753 feet of 3 inch and 4504 feet of 2 inch surface pipeline connecting these 5 wells; ECW 14–23Z, ECW 78–23, ECW 79–23, ECW 80–23, and ECW 81–23 along the existing road/pipeline corridor for gas lift within T9S R23E Sec 23, Uintah County Utah. There will be no new surface disturbance.

Surface Facilities: The engine and H₂S treatment facility will be set on locations of the East Chapita 14–23Z well pad. The 2 and 3 inch surface line will be placed in the existing disturbance of the road/pipeline corridor within Section 23 of T9S R23E. All permanent structures will be painted a flat, non-reflective, earth tone color to match one of the standard environmental colors, as determined by the Rocky Mountain Five State Interagency committee. All facilities will be painted within 6 months of installation

2.2. Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail:

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, EOG would not install the compressor engines, H₂S facilities, or the surface line. However, other oil and gas development in the area would be expected to continue. Other current resource trends and land use practices would also continue. The BLM's authority to implement the No Action Alternative may be limited because oil and gas leases allowing drilling in the lease area subject to the stipulations of the specific lease agreement. The BLM can deny the Notice of Intent (NOI) if the proposal would violate lease stipulations and applicable laws and/or regulations. The BLM can also impose conditions of approval to prevent undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. If the BLM were to deny the NOI, the applicant could attempt to reverse the BLM's decision through administrative appeals, seek to exchange its lease for leases in other locations, or seek compensation from the federal government. The outcome of these actions is beyond the scope of this EA because they cannot be projected or meaningfully analyzed at this time.

2.3. Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

There were no other alternatives identified aside from the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives that would meet the purpose and need of this project.

2.4. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed facilities would be in conformance with the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 31, 2008) and the terms of the lease. The RMP/ROD decision allows leasing of oil and gas while protecting or mitigating other resource values (RMP/ROD p. 97-99). The Minerals and Energy Resources Management Objectives encourage the drilling of oil and gas wells by private industry (RMP/ROD, p. 97). The RMP/ROD decision also allows for processing applications, permits, operating plans, mineral exchanges, and leases on public lands in accordance with policy and guidance (RMP/ROD p. 86). It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative(s) would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.

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Chapter 3. Affected Environment:

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3.1. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

The affected environment of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives were considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team, as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist (Appendix A). The checklist indicates which resources of concern are present, would be affected by the action, and would require analysis in the EA, or are either not present in the project area or would not be affected to a degree that requires detailed analysis.

The proposed action would be located in the Chapita Wells area of the BLM's Vernal Field Office (VFO). Mineral extraction activities, transportation corridors, livestock grazing, and erosion have historically affected the project area. The project area is defined as T8S R22E Sec 26, T8S R23E Sec 32, and T9S R23E Sec 23. The project boundary has been previously disturbed by the construction of roads and well locations.

3.2. Air Quality

3.2.1. Air Quality

The Project Area is located in the Uinta Basin, a semiarid, mid-continental climate regime typified by dry, windy conditions, limited precipitation and wide seasonal temperature variations subject to abundant sunshine and rapid nighttime cooling. The Uinta Basin is designated as unclassified/attainment by the EPA under the Clean Air Act. This classification indicates that the concentration of criteria pollutants in the ambient air is below National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), or that adequate air monitoring is not available to determine attainment.

NAAQS are standards that have been set for the purpose of protecting human health and welfare with an adequate margin of safety. Pollutants for which standards have been set include ground level ozone, (O₃), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀) or 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}). Airborne particulate matter consists of tiny coarse-mode (PM₁₀) or fine-mode (PM_{2.5}) particles or aerosols combined with dust, dirt, smoke, and liquid droplets. PM_{2.5} is derived primarily from the incomplete combustion of fuel sources and secondarily formed aerosols, whereas PM₁₀ is primarily from crushing, grinding, or abrasion of surfaces. **Table 3-1** lists ambient air quality background values for the Uinta Basin and NAAQS standards.

Table 3.1.

Pollutant	Averaging Period(s)	Uinta Basin Background Concentration (g/m ³)	NAAQS (g/m ³)
SO ₂	Annual	0.8 ²	- ¹
	24-hour	3.9 ²	- ¹
	3-hour	10.1 ²	1,300
	1-hour	19.0 ²	197
NO ₂	Annual	8.1 ³	100
	1-hour	60.2 ³	188

Pollutant	Averaging Period(s)	Uinta Basin Background Concentration (g/m ³)	NAAQS (g/m ³)
PM ₁₀	Annual	7.0 ⁴	-6
	24-hour	16.0 ⁴	150
PM _{2.5}	Annual	9.4 ³	15
	24-hour	17.8 ³	35
CO	8-hour	3,450 ⁴	10,000
CO	1-hour	6,325 ⁴	40,000
O ₃	8-hour	100.0 ³	75

- The 24-hour and annual SO₂ NAAQS have been revoked by USEPA
- Based on 2009 data from Wamsutter Monitoring Station Data (USEPA AQS Database)
- Based on 2010/2011 data from Redwash Monitoring Station (USEPA AQS Database)
- Based on 2006 data disclosed in the Greater Natural Buttes FEIS. (BLM, 2012)Ozone is measured in parts per billion (ppb)
- The annual PM₁₀ NAAQS has been revoked by USEPA

Existing point and area sources of air pollution within the Uinta Basin include the following:

- Exhaust emissions (primarily CO, NO_x, PM_{2.5}, and HAPs) from existing natural gas fired compressor engines used in transportation of natural gas in pipelines;
- Natural gas dehydrator still-vent emissions of CO, NO_x, PM_{2.5}, and HAPs;
- Gasoline and diesel-fueled vehicle tailpipe emissions of VOCs, NO_x, CO, SO₂, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5};
- Oxides of sulfur (SO_x), NO_x, fugitive dust emissions from coal-fired power plants, and coal mining/ processing;
- Fugitive dust (in the form of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads, wind erosion in areas of soil disturbance, and road sanding during winter months; and,
- Long-range transport of pollutants from distant sources.

Two year-round air quality monitoring sites were established in summer 2009 near Red Wash (southeast of Vernal, Utah) and Ouray (southwest of Vernal). These monitors were certified as Federal Reference Monitors in fall of 2011, which means they can be used to make a NAAQS compliance determination. The complete EPA Ouray and Redwash monitoring data can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/airexplorer/index.htm>

Both monitoring sites have recorded numerous exceedences of the 8-hour ozone standard during the winter months (January through March 2010, 2011, and 2013). It is thought that high concentrations of ozone are being formed under a “cold pool” process. This process occurs when stagnate air conditions form with very low mixing heights under clear skies, with snow-covered ground, and abundant sunlight. These conditions, combined with area precursor emissions (NO_x and VOCs), can create intense episodes of ozone. The high numbers did not occur in January through March 2012 due to a lack of snow cover. This phenomenon has also been observed in similar locations in Wyoming. Winter ozone formation is a newly recognized issue,

and the methods of analyzing and managing this problem are still being developed. Existing photochemical models are currently unable to reliably replicate winter ozone formation. This is due to the very low mixing heights associated with unique meteorology of the ambient conditions. Further research is needed to definitively identify ozone precursor sources that contribute to observed ozone concentrations.

The UDAQ conducted limited monitoring of PM_{2.5} in Vernal, Utah in December 2006. During the 2006-2007 winter seasons, PM_{2.5} levels were higher than the PM_{2.5} health standards that became effective in December 2006. The PM_{2.5} levels recorded in Vernal were similar to other areas in northern Utah that experience wintertime inversions. The most likely causes of elevated PM_{2.5} at the Vernal monitoring station are those common to other areas of the western U.S. (combustion and dust) plus nitrates and organics from oil and gas activities in the Basin. PM_{2.5} monitoring that has been conducted in the vicinity of oil and gas operations in the Uinta Basin by the Red Wash and Ouray monitors beginning in summer 2009 have not recorded any exceedences of either the 24 hour or annual NAAQS.

HAPs are pollutants that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects, such as reproductive effects or birth defects, or adverse environmental impacts. The EPA has classified 187 air pollutants as HAPs. Examples of listed HAPs associated with the oil and gas industry include formaldehyde, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, isomers of xylene (BTEX) compounds, and normal-hexane (n-hexane). There are no applicable Federal or State of Utah ambient air quality standards for assessing potential HAP impacts to human health.

3.2.2. Greenhouse Gases

Greenhouse gases keep the planet's surface warmer than it otherwise would be. However, as concentrations of these gases increase the Earth's temperature is climbing above past levels. According to NOAA and NASA data, the Earth's average surface temperature has increased by about 1.2 to 1.4° F in the last 100 years. The eight warmest years on record (since 1850) have all occurred since 1998, with the warmest year being 1998. However, according to the British Meteorological Office's Hadley Centre (BMO 2009), the United Kingdom's foremost climate change research center, the mean global temperature has been relatively constant for the past nine years after the warming trend from 1950 through 2000. Predictions of the ultimate outcome of global warming remain to be seen.

The analysis of the Regional Climate Impacts prepared by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) in 2009 suggests that recent warming in the region (including the project area) was nationally among the most rapid. Past records and future projections predict an overall increase in regional temperatures, largely in the form of warmer nights and effectively higher average daily minimum temperatures. They conclude that this warming is causing a decline in spring snowpack and reduced flows in the Colorado River. The USGCRP projects a region-wide decrease in precipitation, although with substantial variability in interannual conditions. For eastern Utah, the projections range from an approximate 5 percent decrease in annual precipitation to decreases as high as 40 percent of annual precipitation.

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Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:

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4.1. DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

4.2. Proposed Action

4.2.1. Air Quality

4.2.1.1. Air Quality

This Proposed Action is considered to be a minor air pollution source under the Clean Air Act and is not controlled by regulatory agencies. At present, control technology is not required by regulatory agencies since the Uinta Basin is designated as unclassified/attainment. Annual estimated emissions from the Proposed Action are summarized in **Table 4-1**

Table 4.1.

Pollutant	Total/Tons per year
NO _x	0.05
CO	0.07
VOC	6.6E-3
SO ₂	1.0E-4
PM ₁₀	1.9E-4
PM _{2.5}	1.9E-4
Benzene	3.3E-5
Toluene	1.1E-5
Ethylbenzene	3.6E-7
Xylene	4.0E-6
n-Hexane	0
Formaldehyde	4.0E-4

Pipeline construction includes NO_x, SO₂, and CO tailpipe emissions from vehicle traffic. Fugitive dust concentrations would occur from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads

After installation continuous NO_x, CO, VOC, and HAP emissions would originate from the gas compressor. Road dust (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) would also be produced by vehicles servicing the compressor, H₂S facility, and pipeline.

Under the proposed action, emissions of NO_x and VOC, ozone precursors, are 0.05 tons/yr for NO_x, and .006 tons/yr of VOC (**Table 4-1**). Emissions would be dispersed and/ or diluted to the extent where any local ozone impacts from the Proposed Action would be indistinguishable from background conditions.

The primary sources of HAPs are from oil storage tanks and smaller amounts from other production equipment. Small amounts of HAPs are emitted by construction equipment. These emissions are estimated to be minor and less than 1 ton per year.

4.2.1.2. Green House Gases

The assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change remains in its earliest stages of formulation. Applicable EPA rules do not require any controls and have yet to establish any emission limits related to GHG emissions or impacts. The lack of scientific models that predict

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INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: EOG Resources installation of a gas engine or equivalent, with H2S treatment facility and for the installation of a 4 inch surface pipeline

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0022

File/Serial Number:

Project Leader: Melissa Wardle

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: *(Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)*

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

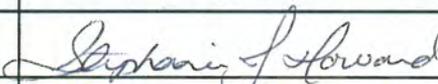
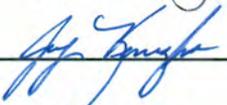
Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
PI	Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Emissions from equipment could adversely affect air quality. No standards have been set by EPA or other regulatory agencies for greenhouse gases. In addition, the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is still in its earliest stages of formulation. Global scientific models are inconsistent, and regional or local scientific models are lacking so that it is not technically feasible to determine the net impacts to climate due to greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions associated with this action and its alternative(s) would be negligible.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NP	BLM Natural Areas	None Present as per GIS and RMP review	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NI	Cultural: Archaeological Resources	The proposed surface pipeline will be located within an existing road/pipeline corridor. No new surface disturbance is required for the undertaking.	Cameron Cox	8/19/2013
NP	Cultural: Native American Religious Concerns	No Tradition Cultural Properties (TCPs) are identified within the APE. The proposed project will not hinder access to or use of Native American religious sites.	Cameron Cox	8/19/2013
NP	Designated Areas: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	None Present as per GIS and RMP review	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NP	Designated Areas: Wild and Scenic Rivers	None Present as per GIS and RMP review	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NP	Designated Areas: Wilderness Study Areas	None Present as per GIS and RMP review	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NP	Environmental Justice	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities or populations would be disproportionately adversely affected by the Proposed Action or alternatives since there are none in the project area.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NP	Farmlands (prime/unique)	No prime or unique farmlands as identified by the NRCS exist in the project area.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NP	Fuels/Fire Management	No fuel management activities are planned for the project area.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NI	Geology/Minerals/Energy Production	Surface action with no new disturbance will cause no adverse impacts.	Betty Gamber	9/10/2013
NI	Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation	In accordance with the Green River Reclamation Guidelines, which will prevent impacts to soils and vegetation and prevent the spread of invasive and noxious weeds to the extent that detailed analysis is not necessary	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NI	Lands/Access	The proposed area is located within the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan area which allows for oil and gas development with associated facility right-of-ways. The proposed project is wholly within EOG's Oil & Gas Lease UTU-67868. The pipelines would be authorized under beneficial use of their lease; therefore, this project does not require a ROW.	Katie White Bull	9/16/2013
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)	None Present as per 2008 Vernal RMP/ROD and GIS layer review	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NI	Livestock Grazing & Rangeland Health Standards	<p>Livestock Grazing: The proposed project is located within the Antelope Draw sheep allotment. The allotment is seasonally permitted from October 1 to May 10 with up to 3679 AUMs. This area has many existing well sites and the proposed equipment installation and pipeline will have little effect on the livestock grazing as the area is bisected by numerous roads and other oil and gas projects. No new disturbance would occur other than increasing the traffic on the already existing road. The proposal is consistent with multiple use of public lands and other oil & gas activities in the area. It is not anticipated that this proposal would negatively impact grazing operations. There are no known range improvements in this allotment that would be impacted by this proposal.</p> <p>Rangeland Health Standards: This proposal is within the Antelope Draw Allotment. This proposal is not expected to affect Rangeland Health Standards in this allotment.</p>	Craig Newman	9/17/2013
NI	Paleontology	No new disturbance is planned for this project.	Betty Gamber	9/10/2013
NI	Plants: BLM Sensitive	<p>The following UT BLM sensitive plant species are present or expected in the same or an adjacent subwatershed as the proposed project: Horseshoe milkvetch (<i>Astragalus equisolensis</i>), Barneby's catseye (<i>Cryptantha barnebyi</i>), and <i>Yucca sterilis</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed project is located outside of the potential range of Horseshoe milkvetch and not located on geological substrate associated with the species. <p>The Green River formation does not outcrop in the vicinity of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential habitat for Barneby's catseye.</p>	Aaron Roe	9/23/2013

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy soils in the vicinity of the proposed project may provide suitable habitat for <i>Yucca sterilis</i>. However, no populations were identified in the vicinity of the proposed project area. Given the exclusively clonal nature of the species, the potential for future establishment is negligible. 		
PI	Plants: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate	<p>The following federally listed, proposed, or candidate plant species are located or expected in the same or an adjacent subwatershed as the proposed project: Uinta Basin hookless cactus (<i>Sclerocactus wetlandicus</i>) and White River penstemon (<i>Penstemon scariosus</i> var. <i>albifluvis</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A portion of the proposed project is located within the 2013 potential habitat polygon for Uinta Basin hookless cactus and partially within a Level 2 Core Conservation Area. The Green River formation does not outcrop in the vicinity of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential habitat for White River penstemon. 	Aaron Roe	9/23/2013
	Plants: Wetland/Riparian	Riparian habitat is not inventoried or known within the project area and the development would not be expected to negatively impact riparian of the Green River directly.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NI	Recreation	The proposed location is within the Vernal Extensive recreation management area (ERMA) General ERMAs are managed for a more primitive form of recreation with less infrastructure. Historically low recreation use is seen within the proposed project area. Recreationists primarily use roads for access to hunting in the fall/winter. Some OHV and ATV traffic occurs during Antler Shed hunting season in the spring. The primary use in this area is for minerals extraction. Recreation impacts are expected to be negligible.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NI	Socio-Economics	There would be relatively minor social or economic impacts from this project. This determination is based on the scale of the project when compared to the level of the oil and gas development/production in the Uinta Basin. Consequently, this resource will not be carried forward for a detailed analysis.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NI	Visual Resources	VRM Class IV identified, project would meet class IV objectives.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NI	Wastes (hazardous/solid)	No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III in amounts greater than 10,000 pounds would be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of Wastes annually in association with the project. Trash and other waste materials would be cleaned up and removed immediately after completion of operations.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NP	Water: Floodplains	The proposed activities are not located in a flood plain.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NI	Water: Groundwater Quality	This surface action will not affect groundwater.	Betty Gamber	9/10/2013

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Water: Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	The Natural Buttes area is arid, with few storm events that result in drainage from the disturbed areas. Hydrologic Conditions BMPs and adherence to Gold book Standards to control erosion would prevent transport of sediments from runoff.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NI	Water: Surface Water Quality	Surface water quality would be impacted to a small degree with surface disturbing development causing soil erosion and also potential chemical spills onto soils. However the project is consistent with other approved energy development and the VFORMP.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NP	Water: Waters of the U.S.	No navigable waters are found within the project area. No actions requiring a 404 permit were identified.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013
NP	Wild Horses	No herd areas or herd management areas are present as per GIS review. However, dozens of feral and/or tribal horses are present throughout the area and fall within the jurisdiction of Uintah County Animal Control Services.	Dusty Carpenter	9/16/2013
NI	Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)	No known raptor nests are located within project area. Migratory birds are present, however given current development and existing disturbance impacts will be negligible.	Daniel Emmett	10/31/2013
NP	Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated	No designated big game habitat exists within project area.	Daniel Emmett	10/31/2013
NI	Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate	Is the proposed project in sage grouse PPH or PGH? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the answer is yes, the project must conform with WO IM 2012-043.	Daniel Emmett	10/31/2013
NP	Woodlands/Forestry	None Present as per 2008 Vernal RMP/ROD and GIS review.	Melissa Wardle	9/9/2013

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator		12/11/13	
Authorized Officer		12-12-2013	

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

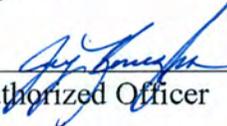
Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2013-0282

EOG Resources requests authorization to install one Caterpillar G3408TA skid mounted gas engine (or equivalent) with associated H2S treatment facility on existing well pad and to install a surface pipeline along the existing road/pipeline corridor for gas lift on 5 wells

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

“Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that EOGs proposal to install one Caterpillar G3408TA skid mounted gas engine (or equivalent) with associated H2S treatment facility on existing well pad and to install a surface pipeline along the existing road/pipeline corridor for gas lift on 5 wells, in T9S R23E Sec 23, as described in the proposed action alternative of DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-022 will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.”



Authorized Officer

DEC 12 2013

Date

DECISION RECORD
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0022

EOG Resources requests authorization to install one Caterpillar G3408TA skid mounted gas engine (or equivalent) with associated H₂S treatment facility on existing well pad and to install a surface pipeline along the existing road/pipeline corridor for gas lift on 5 wells

DECISION RECORD:

It is my decision to authorize EOG resources proposal install one Caterpillar G3408TA skid mounted gas engine (or equivalent) with associated H₂S treatment facility on existing well pad and to install a surface pipeline along the existing road/pipeline corridor for gas lift on 5 wells in T9S R23E Sec 23 as described in the proposed action alternative of DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2013-0022.

This decision is contingent on meeting all stipulations and monitoring requirements listed below, which were designed to minimize and/or avoid impacts.

Summary of the Selected Alternative:

- EOG resources proposes to install one Caterpillar G3408TA skid mounted gas engine on the existing well pad East Chapita 14-23Z
- EOG resources will install an H₂S treatment facility on the existing well pads East Chapita 14-23Z
- EOG resources will install a 4504 feet of 2 inch surface line and 2753 feet of 3 inch surface pipeline along the existing pipeline corridor in T9S R23E Sec 23. There will be no new surface disturbance.

Mitigation and Conditions of Approval

Air Quality

- All internal combustion equipment would be kept in good working order.
- Water or other approved dust suppressants would be used at construction sites and along roads, as determined appropriate by the Authorized Officer.
- Drill rigs would be equipped with Tier II or better diesel engines
- Low bleed pneumatics would be installed on separator dump valves and other controllers.
- All new and replacement internal combustion gas field engines of less than or equal to 300 design-rated horse power must not emit more than 2 grams of NO_x per horsepower-hour. This requirement does not apply to gas field engines of less than or equal to 40 design-rated horsepower-hour.
- All new and replacement internal combustion gas field engines of greater than 300 design rated horsepower must not emit more than 1.0 grams of NO_x per horsepower-hour.

Rationale for the Decision:

The selected alternative is in conformance with the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (BLM 2008).

The subject lands were leased for oil or gas development under authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as modified by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987. The lessee/operator has the right to explore for oil and gas on the lease as specified in 43 CFR 3103.1-2, and if a discovery is made, to produce oil and/or natural gas for economic gain.

The selected alternative is consistent with *Uintah County General Plan* (published in 2007) that encompasses the location of the proposed pipelines. In general, the plan indicates support for development proposals such as the selected alternative through the plan's emphasis of multiple-use public land management practices, responsible use and optimum utilization.

There are no comprehensive State of Utah plans for the vicinity of the selected alternative. However, the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) have leased much of the nearby state land for oil and gas production. Because the objectives of SITLA are to produce funding for the state school system, and because production on federal leases could further interest in drilling on state leases in the area, it is assumed that the selected alternative is consistent with the objectives of the State.

The selected alternative meets the BLM's need to acknowledge and allow development of valid existing leases. The BLM objective to reduce impacts is met by the imposing of mitigation measures to protect other resource values.

Onsite visits were conducted by Vernal Field Office Personnel. The onsite inspection reports do not indicate that any other locations be proposed for analysis.

Summary of Public Involvement Efforts and Public Response

The Proposed Action was posted to the E-planning NEPA Register on 11/21/2013. No public interest has been expressed.

Appeals:

This decision is effective upon the date it is signed by the authorized officer. The decision is subject to appeal. Under BLM regulation, this decision is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of this decision must include information required under 43 CFR 3165.3(b) (State Director Review), including all supporting documentation. Such a request must be filed in writing with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84145-0155, within 20 business days of the date this Decision is received or considered to have been received.

If you wish to file a petition for stay, the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
- (3) The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted;
and,
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.


Authorized Officer

Date **DEC 12 2013**