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

Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0059-EA
January 2014

Bill Barrett Corporation proposes to drill the following oil well: Aurora Federal 15-23D-7-20, on split estate in Uintah County, Utah.

Location: *SW/SE of Section 23, T7S, R20E, SL B&M.*
Applicant/Address: *1099 18th Street, Suite 2300, Denver CO 80202*

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BLM

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by the Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office to analyze Bill Barrett Corporation's (BBC) Application(s) for Permit to Drill (APD), including roads, pipelines, well pad, and the associated infrastructure. The subject well(s) is located on split estate lands. The well pad and a portion of the access road and pipeline infrastructure would be located on lands owned by Four Star Ranch (David Yeaman), with underlying Federal minerals. The remaining portions of the access road and pipeline are located on Federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). A Surface Use Agreement with the operator has been signed by the respective landowner(s) and has been submitted with the APD package. A right-of way (ROW) would not be required for the portions of the access road and pipelines on BLM land because the proposed surface disturbance would occur entirely within Federal Lease UTU-80689 and the Aurora (Deep) Unit.

The well information is as follows:

Well Identification	Legal Location	Lease Number
Aurora Federal 15-23D-7-20	SW/SE of Sec. 23, T7S, R20E	UTU-80689

The EA assists the BLM in project planning and 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.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The BLM decision to be made is whether or not to approve the APD. The purpose of the action is to allow the lessee to develop the Federal mineral lease indicated above in an environmentally sound manner. The need for the action is established by BLM Onshore Orders (43 CFR 3160), which require the BLM to review and approve APDs producing from Federal mineral leases, including those leases with split estate lands. However, the BLM has no jurisdiction over surface impacts on these split estate lands.

SCOPING AND PUBLIC INVOLVMENT AND ISSUES

An on-site review of the APD was conducted on July 10, 2013 and the surface owner(s) were invited to attend. The operator has provided certification that they have a surface owner's agreement from each of the landowners, which was received by the BLM on January 2, 2014. No major issues were identified by the landowners. A cultural resource survey has been completed and cover page of the survey results was submitted with the APD package. No cultural resources eligible for listing under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) were identified as a result of the survey.

The Interdisciplinary Checklist contained within the Utah NEPA Guidebook was not completed for this EA because the effects of the Proposed Action on the natural and physical environment cannot be meaningfully evaluated on lands outside of BLM's jurisdiction, other than for those resources carried forward in detail in Chapters 3 and 4, because of lack of data, lack of authority to gather the data, and existence of the land owner's decision (BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1, Sections 3.1 and 6.4).

The Proposed Action was posted to the Utah BLM's NEPA Register on January 10, 2014. No public interest has been expressed.

CHAPTER 2
PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Bill Barrett Corporation proposes to drill the following oil well: Aurora Federal 15-23D-7-20. The following table summarizes the maximum proposed site dimensions.

Table 1. Maximum Proposed Site Dimensions

Well ID	*Well Pad / Reserve Pit*	*Access Road*	*Pipeline*	*Power-line*	*Total*
Aurora Federal 15-23D-7-20	3.306 acres	0.089 acre	0.097 acre	4.247 acres	7.739 acres

New surface disturbance from the construction of the well pads and reserve pits would be approximately 3.306 acres. However, totals would be lessened when interim reclamation becomes successful. Surface and subsoil materials in the immediate project area would be used for construction. Topsoil would be saved for reclamation purposes only. The reserve pit would be fenced on three sides during drilling operations and on the fourth side when the rig moves off location. It would be fenced, and the fence maintained, until the pit is reclaimed within 180 days of the well going into production.

All production facilities would be located on the disturbed portion of the well pad and a minimum of 25 feet from the toe of the back slope, preferably on cut, and towards the front of the well pad to maximize interim reclamation. A dike/berm (earthen or corrugated steel) large enough to hold 110% of the capacity of the largest tank would be constructed completely around those production facilities which contain fluids.

Approximately 130 feet of new access road would be needed to access the proposed location(s). Total new surface disturbance to the land from the new access road would be approximately 0.089 acre. Approximately 80 feet of the proposed access road would be located on BLM managed surface, and the remaining 50 feet would be located on fee surface. The access road would be crowned, ditched, and constructed with a permanent running surface of 18 feet and a maximum disturbed width of 30 feet. Approximately 12 feet of the access road corridor width would undergo reclamation following completion of the access road construction. If the reclamation efforts are successful then the disturbed acreage would be lessened to approximately 0.054 acre. Graveling or capping the roadbed would be performed as necessary to provide a well-constructed, safe road that minimizes the potential soil and vegetation losses. If construction occurs in winter months, then the proposed road would be cleared of any snow and allowed to dry completely prior to initiation of construction.

Approximately 142 feet of up to three buried pipelines would be installed as part of the Proposed Action. The proposed pipelines would be installed adjacent to the access corridor for the proposed well location(s) and would tie in to pipeline infrastructure associated with the Aurora Federal 8-26-7-20 location. Approximately 92 feet of the proposed pipeline corridor would be located on BLM managed surface, and the remaining 50 feet would be located on fee surface. There would be one 12" steel natural gas gathering line, one 6" high-pressure flexible material water transportation line, and one 6" high-pressure flexible material natural gas or water transportation line. The pipeline corridor would have a 30 foot width. The total disturbance associated with construction and installation of the pipelines would be approximately 0.097 acre.

Approximately 3,703 feet of power-line would be installed adjacent to the existing power-line corridor to the Aurora Federal 26-33 location, and would have a 150 foot corridor width. However, the only anticipated surface disturbance within the power-line corridor would be associated with the installation of the power-line posts, and with general maintenance throughout the life of the power-lines. The operator anticipates that no more than 50 feet of the total corridor width would be disturbed as a result of the Proposed Action, and that the remaining width would fall mostly within the existing power-line corridor to the Aurora Federal 26-33 location. Approximately 3,653 feet of the proposed pipeline corridor would be located on BLM managed surface, and the remaining 50 feet would be located on fee surface. The total disturbance associated with construction and installation of the power-line would be approximately 4.247 acres.

Upon well completion, the operator would reclaim the reserve pit in accordance with Onshore Orders, regulations, and the surface owner requirements. Also, any unused portion of the well pad not needed for continued operations would undergo interim reclamation practices. This must be addressed in the reclamation plan required under Onshore Order #1 section j of Surface Use Plan. Upon well abandonment, the operator would reclaim the well pad, road, and pipeline as directed by the surface owner or by the BLM AO if reclamation techniques are inadequate.

Table 2. Interim Reclamation Seed Mixture as Approved by the Surface Owner

Common name	Latin name	lbs/acre
Annual Yellow Sweetclover	*Melilotus indicus*	2
Ladak Alfalfa	*Medicago sativa*	2
Palmer Pentemon	*Penstemon palmeri*	0.5
Cicer Milkvetch	*Astragalus cicer*	1
Great Basin Wildrye	*Leymus cinereus*	2
Intermediate Wheatgrass	*Thinopyrum intermedium*	2
Crested Wheatgrass	*Agropyron cristatum*	2

- All pounds are pure live seed.
- All seed and mulch would be certified weed free, seed tags should be saved.
- Rates are set for broadcasting; half rate if drill seeding.

Table 3. Final Reclamation Seed Mixture as Approved by the Surface Owner

Common name	Latin name	lbs/acre
Palmer Penstemon	*Penstemon palmeri*	0.25
Lewis Flax	*Linum lewisii*	0.50
White Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	0.25
Blue Grama	*Bouteloua gracilis*	0.50
Galleta Grass	*Pleuraphis jamesii*	0.50
Indian Ricegrass	*Achnatherum hymenoides*	1
Intermediate Wheatgrass	*Thinopyrum intermedium*	2
Western Wheatgrass	*Pascopyrum smithii*	1
Bottlebrush Squirreltail	*Elymus elymoides*	2
Four-wing Saltbush	*Atriplex canascens*	3
Wyoming Big Sagebrush	*Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis*	0.25
Winterfat	*Krascheninnikovia lanata*	1
Rubber Rabbitbrush	*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*	0.25

- All pounds are pure live seed.
- All seed and mulch would be certified weed free, seed tags should be saved.
- Rates are set for broadcasting; half rate if drill seeding.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action alternative, the proposed well(s) and associated facilities would not be constructed or installed. The lease allows drilling to occur in the lease areas subject to the stipulations of the specific lease agreement. BLM can deny the APD if the proposal would violate lease stipulations, applicable laws and or regulations, and also can impose restrictions to prevent undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. If BLM were to deny the APD, the applicant could attempt to reverse the BLM's decision through administrative appeals. The outcome of that action is beyond the scope of this EA and cannot be projected or meaningfully analyzed at this time.

CHAPTER 3
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases:

Air Quality:

The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are standards that have been set to protect human health and welfare with an adequate margin of safety. Pollutants for which standards have been set include ground level ozone (O_3), SO_2, nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), CO, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. The Project Area is located in the Uinta Basin, which is designated as unclassified/in attainment of the NAAQS by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Air Act. The Greater Natural Buttes FEIS, Tables 3.1-2 and 3.1-3 list ambient air quality background values for the Uinta Basin and the NAAQS standards.

Two year-round air quality-monitoring sites were established in summer 2009 near Red Wash (southeast of Vernal, Utah) and Ouray (southwest of Vernal). The complete EPA 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 and 2011). The exceedences did not occur in 2012 due to lack of snow cover. Winter ozone formation is a newly recognized issue, so the ozone precursor sources are still being identified and the methods of analyzing and managing this problem are still being developed.

During the 2006-2007 winter season in Vernal, Utah, the UDAQ recorded $PM_{2.5}$ levels higher than the $PM_{2.5}$ health standards that became effective in December 2006, likely due to combustion and dust, similar to other areas in northern Utah that experience wintertime inversions, 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.

Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) are pollutants that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects or adverse environmental impacts. The EPA has classified 187 air pollutants as HAPs. There are no applicable Federal or State of Utah ambient air quality standards for assessing potential HAP impacts to human health. Refer to Section 3.1 (pages 3-2 through 3-13) in the Greater Natural Buttes Final EIS for additional information on air quality conditions relevant to the Project Area.

Greenhouse Gases:

Greenhouse gases keep the planet's surface warmer than it otherwise would be but as concentrations of these gases increase, the Earth's temperature is climbing above past levels. The analysis of the Regional Climate Impacts prepared by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) (2009) suggests that recent warming in the region including the project area was nationally among the most rapid. Past records and future projections predict warmer nights and effectively higher average daily minimum temperatures. For eastern Utah, the USGCRP projects an approximate 5 percent to 40 percent annual precipitation decrease. Refer to Section 3.1.3.7 (pages 3-12 through 3-13) in the Greater Natural Buttes Final EIS for more information on climate change.

Soils/Vegetation:

The proposed well is located in SW/SE of Section 23 of T7S, R20E. The terrain is generally flat, with approximately 4-8 inches of precipitation per year on average. Most of the land in the Project Area has been converted to agricultural use. The soils in the Project Area are Tipperary loamy fine sand.

Tipperary loamy fine sand is somewhat excessively drained, nearly level to slightly sloping (0 to 8% slopes) soil found on structural benches at elevations from 4,700 to 5,800 feet. The parent materials are eolian deposits derived from sandstone. The surface layer is loamy fine sand 0 to 4 inches thick; upper subsoil, where present, is loamy fine sand up to 56 inches thick. The permeability is rapid, runoff is very low and erosion hazard is moderate. This soil is classified as not prime farmland, and its vegetative classification is desert sand (four-wing saltbush). Dominant vegetation found in this soil type include four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canascens*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), needle and thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra torreyana*), galleta grass (*Pleuraphis jamesii*), sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*), spike dropseed (*Sporobolus contractus*), and winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*).

In addition to the aforementioned vegetation, additional species that have been identified in the Project Area during onsite investigation(s) include a buckwheat species (*Eriogonum sp.*) and forage kochia (*Bassia prostrata*).

No instances of noxious weeds were identified during the onsite, and no noxious weeds have been previously documented in the Project Area. The invasive species cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*) were identified in the Project Area during the onsite. These species are considered undesirable and would be controlled by Bill Barrett Corporation. Any observed instances of noxious weed growth in the Project Area during the life of the project would also be controlled by the operator.

CHAPTER 4
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

PROPOSED ACTION DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases:

Air Quality:

- Emissions during well construction, drilling and completion include: NO_X, SO_2, and CO tailpipe emissions from earth-moving equipment, vehicle traffic, drilling, and completion activities; small amounts of HAPs emissions from construction equipment; fugitive dust from vehicle traffic on unpaved roads and wind erosion where soils are disturbed; and NO_X, CO, and lesser amounts of SO_2 from drill rig and fracturing engine operations. These emissions would be short-term during the construction, drilling and completion phases.
- Emissions during well production include: continuous NO_X, CO, VOC, and HAP emissions from well pad separators, condensate storage tank vents; and daily tailpipe and fugitive dust emissions from operations traffic. 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.
- Annual estimated emissions from the Proposed Action are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Proposed Action First Year Emissions (tons/year)

Pollutant	Development	# of Wells	Total for Development	Production	# of Wells	Total for Production	Total
NO_x	3.8	1	3.8	0.12	1	0.12	4.8
CO	2.2	1	2.2	0.11	1	0.11	2.31
VOC	0.1	1	0.1	4.9	1	4.9	5.0
SO_2	0.005	1	0.005	0.0043	1	0.0043	.0093
PM_{10}	1.7	1	1.7	0.11	1	0.11	1.81
$PM_{2.5}$	0.4	1	0.4	0.025	1	0.025	0.425
Benzene	0.0022	1	0.0022	0.044	1	0.044	.0462
Toluene	0.0016	1	0.0016	0.103	1	0.103	0.1046
Ethylbenzene	0.00034	1	0.00034	0.005	1	0.005	0.000534
Xylene	0.0011	1	0.0011	0.076	1	0.076	0.0771
n-Hexane	0.00017	1	0.00017	0.145	1	0.145	0.14517
Formaldehyde	0.013	1	0.013	0.00008645	1	0.00008645	0.013086645

[1] Emissions include 1 producing well and associated operations traffic during the year in which the project is developed

Mitigation Measures:

- Stationary internal combustion engines would comply with the following emission standards: 2 g/bhp-hr of NOx for engines less than 300 HP and 1 g/bhp-hr of NOx for engines over 300 HP.
- Either no or low bleed controllers would be installed on pneumatic pumps, actuators or other pneumatic devices.
- VOC venting controls or flaring would be utilized for oil or gas atmospheric storage tanks.
- VOC venting controls or flaring would be used for glycol dehydration and amine units.
- Where feasible, green completion would be used for well completion, re-completion, venting, or planned blowdown emissions. Alternatively, use controlled VOC emissions methods with 90% efficiency.

Greenhouse 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 climate change on regional or local level prohibits the quantification of potential future impacts of decisions made at the local level, particularly for small scale projects such as the Proposed Action. Drilling and development activities from the Proposed Action are anticipated to release a negligible amount of greenhouse gases into the local air-shed.

Soils/Vegetation:

During construction, the soils in the project area would be stripped of vegetation, moved around and compacted until the road and location are formed. Topsoil would be separated from other soils and be used for interim and final reclamation only. If topsoil is to be stored for a long period, protection of topsoil must take place to prevent further losses of topsoil from erosional processes. The Proposed Action alternative would result in approximately 7.739 acres of new disturbance. Upon well completion, the reserve pit would be reclaimed in accordance with Onshore Order #1 regulations and the surface owner's directions, which includes Bill Barrett Corporation's surface operating plan. Upon well abandonment, the well pad, road, and pipeline would be reclaimed in accordance with the surface owner's directions, and BBC's site specific reclamation plan.

NO ACTION DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases: Under the No Action Alternative, it is assumed the proponent would not drill the proposed well(s) or develop the associated pipelines and infrastructure. Effects on ambient air quality would continue at present levels from existing oil and gas development in the region and other emission producing sources. Refer to Section 4.1.1 (pages 4-6 through 4-10) in the Greater Natural Buttes Final EIS for additional information on potential air quality impacts under the No Action alternative.

Soils/Vegetation: No surface disturbance would occur under the No Action alternative because the proposed well(s) would not be approved. Therefore there would be no effects to soil and vegetation. Soils and vegetation in the area would in their current condition. Erosion rates would remain at current levels.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases:

The cumulative impact area for air quality is the Uinta Basin, bounded on all sides by higher terrain, which results in similar climate and dispersion conditions for pollutants in the cumulative impact area. The Greater Natural Buttes Air Quality Technical Support Document, and the Greater Natural Buttes Final EIS section 5.3.1, are incorporated by reference and summarized below. Most of the cumulative emissions in the Uinta Basin are associated with oil and gas exploration and production activities. Consequently, past, present and reasonably foreseeable wells in the Uinta Basin are a part of the cumulative actions considered in this analysis. Table 5 summarizes the 2006 Uinta Basin emissions as well as the incremental impact of this project's alternatives. As indicated in Table 5, the Proposed Action comprises a small percentage of the Uinta Basin emissions summary.

Table 5. 2006 Uinta Basin Oil and Gas Operations Emissions Summary

County	NO_X (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO_X (tpy)	PM (tpy)	VOC (tpy)
Uintah	6,096	4,133	247	344	45,646
Carbon	995	814	22	40	2,747
Duchesne	3,053	2,448	96	173	19,019
Grand	337	207	16	22	2,360
Emery	273	199	9	14	453

Uinta Basin Total	10,754	7,800	391	592	70,226
Proposed Action	4.8	2.31	.0093	1.81	5.0
No Action	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Greater Natural Buttes Final EIS Table 5.3-1.

The GNB model predicted the following impacts to air quality and air quality related values for the GNB Proposed Action, which encompassed 3,675 new wells:

- Cumulative impacts from criteria pollutants to ambient air quality are well below the NAAQS at Class I airsheds and selected Class II areas;
- The incremental impacts to visibility would be virtually impossible to discern and would not contribute to regional haze at the Class I areas;
- The 2018 projected baseline emissions would result in impacts of 1.0 deciview for at least 201 days per year at the Class II areas;
- Discernible impacts at Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area and Dinosaur National Monument were anticipated;
- Less than 1 percent would be contributed to the acid deposition in Class I areas, and 4.3 percent at the Flaming Gorge Class II area;
- Acid deposition impacts at sensitive lakes would be below the USFS screening threshold; and,
- Ozone levels would be below the current ozone standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb) for the fourth highest annual level in the Uinta Basin for the 2018 projected baseline, and the proposed action would be approximately 3.2 percent of the cumulative ozone impact within the Uinta Basin.

Based on the GNB model results, it is anticipated that the impact to ambient air quality and air quality related values associated with the Proposed Action would be indistinguishable from, and dwarfed by, the margin of uncertainty associated with the model and Uinta Basin emission inventory. The No Action alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

Soils/Vegetation:

According to UDOGM GIS data, there are 15,701 wells in the categories of producer, shut-in, temporarily abandoned, active service, approved, drilling, inactive service, and drilling operations suspended. 2,575 of these are in the plugged and abandoned designation, meaning that proper ecological restoration should have been validated by the BLM. Of these, 18.9% or 2,961 are directional or horizontal wells on existing wells pads with minimal or no disturbance. Of the productive wells, 5,565 are gas wells and 3,471 are oil wells. The total existing oil and gas development is estimated to be 23,811 acres; 23,493 acres for wells and 318 acres for gas plants/compressors stations.

Foreseeable BLM wells equal 25,721 on 14,137 new well pads and UDOGM wells equal 2,696 well pads on 1,659 new well pads. Totaling, 28,417 wells on 15,796 new well pads, which equals 81, 981 acres of disturbance or 43,625 acres if successful interim reclamation is completed.

Assuming average disturbance for a new well equals 5.2 acres or 2.6 acres if interim reclamation is successful, pending NEPA projects equal 72,744 acres of construction disturbance, which if reclamation practices are successful would decrease the amount to 39,267 acres for the life of the project. All oil and gas related disturbances that exist or are foreseeable equal 81,981 or 67,436 if successful interim reclamation is completed.

Cumulative impacts to soils and vegetation typical of oil and gas field development include: removal of native vegetation and disturbance to soils which are generally very thin, slow to develop, and difficult to reclaim due to arid climate, low average precipitation per year, erosional forces, microbial breakdown, leaching of soils, and low organic content. The Proposed Action would result in 7.739 acres of additional disturbance to soils and vegetation. However, it is difficult to make a determination of the effects on lands not designated as BLM lands.

CHAPTER 5
TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR AGENCIES CONSULTED

Table 6. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted		
Name/Agency	*Authority*	*Result*
Private Landowner: Four Star Ranch (Well pad and portions of the access road, pipelines, and power-line)	BLM requires that the Operator engage the Surface Owner in negotiations for the purpose of obtaining a surface owner agreement or waiver for access.	Private Surface Use Agreement received on 1/2/2014.

CHAPTER 6
LIST OF PREPARERS

Table 7. List of Preparers		
Name	*Title*	*Responsibilities*
Christine Cimiluca	Natural Resource Specialist	Team Lead

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND
DECISION RECORD

Bill Barrett Corporation proposes to drill the following oil well: Aurora Federal 15-23D-7-20, on split estate in Uintah County, Utah.

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0059-EA

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 the action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

Authorized Officer (signature)

JAN 1 5 2014
Date of signature

Decision Record:

It is my decision to authorize Bill Barrett Corporation's proposed split estate well as described in the Proposed Action of DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0059-EA.

Well Identification	**Legal Location**	**Lease Number**
Aurora Federal 15-23D-7-20	SW/SE of Sec. 23, T7S, R20E	UTU-80689

Summary of the Selected Alternative:

This decision includes the following components:

Table 1. Maximum Proposed Site Dimensions					
Well ID	*Well Pad / Reserve Pit*	*Access Road*	*Pipeline*	*Power-line*	*Total*
Aurora Federal 15-23D-7-20	3.306 acres	0.089 acre	0.097 acre	4.247 acres	7.739 acres

Rationale for the Decision:

The proposed wells and related facilities meet the BLM's purpose and need to allow the lessee to develop the subject mineral lease indicated above in an environmentally sound manner. The need for the action is established by BLM Onshore Orders (43 CFR 3160) which require BLM approval of APDs on a Federal Lease, including those leases with split estate.

An on-site review of the APD(s) was held on July 10, 2013 and the surface owners were invited to attend. The operator has provided certification that they have a surface use agreement from all landowners, which was received by the BLM on January 2, 2014. No major issues were identified by the surface owners.

The above factors and the analysis contained in DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0059-EA for Bill Barrett Corporation's proposed well were carefully considered and evaluated. In addition, the APD and surface use agreements were reviewed. All reports were read and the information contained weighed in determining the appropriateness of the decision stated above.

Authorized Officer (signature)

JAN 1 5 2014
Date of signature

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 of 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 of resources if the stay is not granted; and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

ATTACHMENT 1 –

STIPULATIONS / CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Company/Operator: Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC)
Well Name & Number: Aurora Federal 15-23D-7-20
Surface Ownership: Private (Four Star Ranch)
Lease Number: UTU-80689
Location(s): SW/SE of Sec. 23 T7S R20E, SL B&M

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

- In the case of any deviation from the submitted APD(s), which includes BBC's surface use plan, and any applicable ROW applications, the operator will notify the BLM in writing and will receive written authorization of any such change with appropriate authorization.

- The operator will implement "Safety and Emergency Plan." The operator's safety director will ensure its compliance.

- All operator employees and/or authorized personnel (sub-contractors) in the field will have approved applicable APD's, COAs, and ROW permits/authorizations on their person(s) during all phases of construction.

- The private landowner (Four Star Ranch) will be notified by BBC prior to commencement of construction of the well pad and related infrastructure.

- Private landowner access to existing haystack will be maintained by BBC during construction, drilling, and completion, as well as throughout the production phase of the well.

- All vehicular traffic, personnel movement, construction/restoration operations should be confined to the area examined and approved, and to the existing roadways and/or evaluated access routes.

- Noxious weeds will be treated, monitored, and controlled along both the access road and pipeline routes, and on the well pad.

- Minimal vegetation removal will occur around the well pad to lessen the visual impact and to aid in re-vegetation efforts in the future.

- Operator will ensure topsoil stability on location and use topsoil for interim reclamation as soon as possible to maintain viability of topsoil resource.

- All above ground production facilities will be painted Covert Green to help blend in with the surrounding habitat, unless otherwise directed by the BLM or landowners.

- Roads shall be crown and ditched to divert any runoff from pooling on the road surface itself, this also aids in lessening erosion on the road and disturbed area. Wing ditches can be installed to also aid in controlling runoff from affecting the proposed road. These should be spaced to adequately catch any runoff along the ditches and aid in diverted water to the surrounding vegetation.

- The operator must conduct operations to minimize adverse effects to surface and subsurface resources, prevent unnecessary surface disturbance, and conform to currently available technologies and practices.

- Site reclamation would be accomplished for portions of the well pad not needed for production, within 6 months of completion, weather permitting. This also includes any roads, and pipeline areas that have been disturbed as well. Roads and pipeline disturbances can undergo reclamation immediately after the pipeline is installed and after the roads are built. Please contact the landowner or the BLM for possible seed mixes to use in the project area. Seeds should be planted in August and prior to ground freeze. Non-natives can be used; however lbs/ac must be kept low to minimize the chance of a monoculture.

- Cicer milkvetch is proposed as part of the interim reclamation seed mix for this location. If this species is used it should be seeded in alternate rows from proposed grass species in order to prevent being outcompeted.