

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Energy Policy Act Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-LLUT-G010-2014-0085**

February, 2014

**Newfield Production Company Q-26-8-16
Resubmittal**

Location: ***Township 8 South, Range 16 East, Section 26***

Applicant/Address: **Newfield Production Company
10530 South County Rd #33
Myton, Utah 84052**

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
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**ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005 SECTION 390 CX REVIEW
AND
DOCUMENTATION FORM**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VERNAL FIELD OFFICE**

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL
For Activities Associated with Oil and Gas Development
Under Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005**

Project Name: Newfield Production Company Q-26-8-16 Resubmittal

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-LLUT-G010-2014-0085

Lead Preparer: Sheri Wysong

Project or Serial Number: NA

Project Description: Newfield Production Company has resubmitted an APD for the Q-26-8-16 well to be directionally drilled from an existing pad. The pit area will be redisturbed but no previously undisturbed areas will be impacted.

Project Location: T. 8 S., R. 16 W., Section 26

Plan Conformance: The management of BLM public lands and resources within the Project Area is directed and guided by the *Vernal Field Office Approved RMP and Record of Decision (RMP/ROD)* (BLM 2008). Although the proposed action is not specifically mentioned in the RMP, it is consistent with its goals and objectives, particularly the following:

- Meet local and national non-renewable and renewable energy and other public mineral needs. (p. 97)
- The BLM recognizes that not all activities authorized by implementation of the Approved RMP will comply with *BLM Utah Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management*. All authorized activities will require reclamation and rehabilitation to ensure sustainability and productivity of the site. (p. 65)

The RMP ROD recognizes the valid existing rights connected with oil and gas leases that were issued prior to approval of the existing RMP (RMP/ROD p. 21), such as leases in the GMBU. Also, under the no action alternative, oil and gas development within the Castle Peak and Eightmile Flat project area would still be permitted as authorized in the *Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Castle Peak and Eightmile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project* (2005). The no action alternative is also consistent with the objectives and goals of the RMP.

Energy Policy Act of 2005 Section 390 Categorical Exclusion Review

The action described above generally does not require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), as it has been found to not

individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. The applicable Categorical Exclusion reference in Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is exclusion number (b)(3) which is: *Drilling an oil or gas well within a developed field for which an approved land use plan or any environmental document prepared pursuant to NEPA analyzed such drilling as a reasonably foreseeable activity, so long as such plan or document was approved within five (5) years prior to the date of spudding the well.*

Categorical Exclusion Review Record

On June 1, 2011 The Decision Record for EA UT-DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2011-0159 was signed. The EA analyzed impacts of drilling the Q-26-8-16 directionally from the same pad as is currently proposed.

Environmental Coordinator: _____

Stephanie J. Forward

Date: 2/21/14

Decision and Rationale

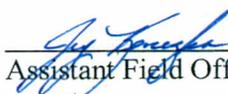
I have decided to implement the approval of the Application to Drill for the Q-26-8-17 with the stipulations and conditions of approval identified in Attachment 1. The stipulations and COAs are required by this decision and variance from these stipulations and COAs during project implementation may require further NEPA review. In addition, I have reviewed the plan conformance statement and have determined that the proposed activity is in conformance with the applicable land use plan(s).

Appropriate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and appropriate Indian Tribes has been conducted and the proposed activity meets the requirements of other Federal, State and local laws.

Further, I have reviewed the proposal to ensure the appropriate exclusion category as described in Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 has been correctly applied. It is my determination that no further environmental analysis is required.

Implementation Date

If the well has not been spudded by June 1, 2016, this APD will expire and the operator is to cease all operations related to preparing to drill the well.


Assistant Field Office Manager

FEB 25 2014

Date

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, 440 W., 200 S. Suite 500 Salt Lake City, Utah, 84101-1345, 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;
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

ATTACHMENT 1 – STIPULATIONS / CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

STANDARD STIPULATIONS

Minerals and Paleontology

- If there is an active Gilsonite mining operation within 2 miles of the well location, operator shall notify the Gilsonite operator at least 48 hours prior to any blasting during construction.
- If paleontological materials are uncovered during construction, the operator is to immediately stop work and contact the Authorized Officer (AO). A determination will be made by the AO as to what mitigation may be necessary for the discovered paleontologic material before construction can continue.

Green River District Reclamation Guidelines

The Operator will comply with the requirements of the *Green River District (GRD) Reclamation Guidelines* formalized by Green River District Instructional Memo UTG000-2011-003 on March 28, 2011. Documentation of the compliance will be as follows:

- The operator shall submit a Sundry Notice (Form 3160-5) to the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) that designates the proposed site-specific monitoring and reference sites chosen for the location. A description of the proposed sites shall be included, as well as a map showing the locations of the proposed sites.
- The operator shall submit a Sundry Notice (Form 3160-5) to the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) 3 growing seasons after reclamation efforts have occurred evaluating the status of the reclaimed areas in order to determine whether the BLM standards set forth in the GRD Reclamation Guidelines have been met (30% or greater basal cover).
- Prior to beginning new surface disturbance, the operator shall submit a Sundry Notice (Form 3160-5) to the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) providing the results of the noxious weed inventory described in the GRD Reclamation Guidelines (2011). If weeds are found the report shall include 1) A GPS location recorded in North American Datum 1983; 2) species; 3) canopy cover or number of plants; 4) and size of infestation (estimate square feet or acres. Information shall be also documented in the reclamation report.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Wildlife

In accordance with the Record of Decision for the Castle Peak and Eightmile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project, Newfield Rocky Mountains Inc., the following COA's are required:

- WFM-1 On level or gently sloping ground (5 percent slope or less) Newfield will elevate surface pipelines (4 inches or greater in diameter) a minimum of 6 inches above the ground to allow passage of small animals beneath the pipe. This ground clearance will be achieved by placing the pipeline on blocks at intervals of 150 to 200 feet.
- WFM-4 Newfield will install noise reduction devices on all pump jacks to reduce intermittent noise to 45 dBA at 660 feet from the source.

COA's derived from mitigating measures in the EA:

If construction and drilling is anticipated during any of the following wildlife seasonal spatial restrictions, a BLM biologist or a qualified consulting firm biologist must conduct applicable surveys using an accepted protocol prior to any ground disturbing activities.

Burrowing Owl (Athene cunicularia)

If surface disturbing activities are planned during the current timing restrictions for the burrowing owl (March 1st through August 31st) a survey for nesting burrowing owl is required. Based on the results of the survey, permission to proceed may or may not be granted.

Mountain Plover (Charadrius montanus)

If it is anticipated that construction or drilling will occur during mountain plover nesting season (May 1 – June 15), a BLM biologist will be notified to determine if surveys are necessary prior to beginning operations. If surveys are deemed necessary, depending on the results permission to proceed may or may not, be granted by the BLM Authorized Officer.

For protection of T&E Fish if drawing water from the Green River

- For areas of fresh water collection, an infiltration gallery will be constructed in a Service approved location. An infiltration gallery is basically a pit or trench dug within the floodplain to a depth below the water table. Water is drawn from the pit rather than from the river directly. If this is not possible, limit pumping within the river to off-channel locations that do not connect to the river during high spring flows.
- If water cannot be drawn using the measures above and the pump head will be located in the river channel where larval fish are known to occur, the following measures apply:
 - Avoid pumping from low-flow or no-flow areas as these habitats tend to concentrate larval fish
 - Avoid pumping to the greatest extent possible, during that period of the year when larval fish may be present (see previous bullet); and
 - Avoid pumping, to the greatest extent possible, during the midnight hours (10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.) as larval drift studies indicate that this is a period of

greatest daily activity. Dusk is the preferred pumping time, as larval drift abundance is lowest during this time.

- Screen all pump intakes with 3/32-inch mesh material.
- Report any fish impinged on the intake screen to the FWS office (801.975.3330) and the:
 - Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
 - Northeastern Region
 - 318 N Vernal Ave.
 - Vernal, UT 84078
 - (435) 781-9453

Air Quality

1. All internal combustion equipment will be kept in good working order.
2. Water or other approved dust suppressants will be used at construction sites and along roads, as determined appropriate by the Authorized Officer. Dust suppressant such as magnesium chloride or fresh water may be used, as needed, during the drilling phase.
3. Open burning of garbage or refuse will not occur at well sites or other facilities.
4. Drill rigs will be equipped with Tier II or better diesel engines.
5. Low bleed pneumatics will be installed on separator dump valves and other controllers.
6. During completion, no venting will occur, and flaring will be limited as much as possible. Production equipment and gathering lines will be installed as soon as possible.
7. Telemetry will be installed to remotely monitor and control production.
8. When feasible, two or more rigs (including drilling and completion rigs) will not be run simultaneously within 200 meters of each other. If two or more rigs must be run simultaneously within 200 meters of each other, then effective public health buffer zones out to 200 meters (m) from the nearest emission source will be implemented. Examples of an effective public health protection buffer zone include the demarcation of a public access exclusion zone by signage at intervals of every 250 feet that is visible from a distance of 125 feet during daylight hours, and a physical buffer such as active surveillance to ensure the property is not accessible by the public during drilling operations. Alternatively, the proponent may demonstrate compliance with the 1-hour NO₂ National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) with appropriate and accepted near-field modeling. As part of this demonstration, the proponent may propose alternative mitigation that could include but is not limited to natural gas-fired drill rigs, installation of NO_x controls, time/use restrictions, and/or drill rig spacing.
9. 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.
10. 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.

11. Green completions will be used for all well completion activities where technically feasible.
12. Employ enhanced VOC emission controls with 95% control efficiency on production equipment having a potential to emit greater than 5 tons per year.