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

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

WY-050–DNA13–39
Devon Energy Production Company, L.P. Tribal 516 MV No. 12–6 Coal Bed Natural Gas Well
Tribal Mineral Lease I-96–IND-7674
Section 6, Township 2 South, Range 5 East, WRM

PREPARING OFFICE

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Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
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BLM Lander Field Office
Lander, Wyoming

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Chapter 1. Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

Devon Energy Production Company, L.P. Tribal 516 MV No. 12–6

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

OFFICE: BLM Lander Field Office

TRACKING NUMBER: WY-050–DNA13–39

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: I-96–IND-7674

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE: Tribal 516 MV No. 12–6 Coal Bed Natural Gas Well

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Section 6, Township 2 South, Range 5 East, WRM

APPLICANT: Devon Energy Production Company, L.P.

A. Description of Proposed Action:

Devon Energy Production Company, L.P. (Devon) has proposed to drill the Tribal 516 MV No. 12–6 coal bed natural gas well to depth of approximately 5,000 feet in the Riverton Dome Field Section 6, Township 2 South, Range 5 East, WRM. The Application for Permit to Drill (APD) was submitted to the BLM on February 1, 2005. Including the associated well pad, access road, and associated production facilities, total short-term (three to five years) disturbance associated with this proposal will be approximately 2.6 acres (Map, Exhibit "A"). Upon completion of interim reclamation, approximately 1.5 acres of disturbance will remain for the duration of the well's operating life (20+ years). As a result of this action, there will be surface use actions as described below. Conditions of Approval (COA) and Stipulations are attached to the APD as part of this approval. Their contents will mitigate the potential adverse impacts associated with the activities of this APD. Authorization of this APD is subject to the attached Surface Use, Drilling, and General Conditions of Approval (Exhibit "B").

Access:

Access to the well pad will require the construction of approximately 77 feet of new access road. The road will be constructed as a crowned and ditched road with a 50–foot construction width (approximately 0.1 acre). Upon completion of interim reclamation, the road running surface will be 16 feet in width within a 35–foot corridor, resulting in approximately 0.1 acre of long-term (20+ years) disturbance, which would remain for the duration of the well's operating life. Culverts and water bars will be installed where necessary along the route. All existing roads shall be maintained in good repair throughout all operations associated with this well in accordance with the BLM Road Standards Manual, Section 9113.

Well Site Layout:

The proposed well pad will be 310 feet x 200 feet (approximately 1.4 acres) in dimension. Approximately four to six inches of topsoil will be removed from all undisturbed areas prior to beginning construction and will be stockpiled for use in future reclamation of the well site. The topsoil and spoil piles will each be 155 feet x 36 feet (approximately 0.1 acre) in dimension. The topsoil and spoil piles will be mounded separately to prevent mixing. A lined reserve pit with dimensions of 90 feet x 60 feet x 10 feet will be located in the cut area of the well pad and used to contain drill cuttings and any drilling fluids associated with drilling of this well. The reserve pit

will be lined with a minimum 12–mil synthetic liner resistant to ultraviolet radiation, weathering, chemicals, punctures and tearing.

Upon completion of drilling operations, all production facilities will be located at the central facility south of the Tribal 503 well, located in Section 36, Township 1 South, Range 4 East. Prior to installation, a production facility layout will be submitted via Sundry Notice for approval.

Total proposed short-term disturbance associated with the well pad, adjacent topsoil and spoil piles, and construction affected area is 2.5 acres. Upon completion of drilling and interim reclamation, the well pad will be reclaimed, leaving an estimated 1.5 acres of long-term (20+ years) disturbance for the duration of the well's operating life.

Surface Facilities:

The proposed production facilities for Tribal 516 MV No. 12–6 will be located off-pad at the central facility south of the Tribal 503 well located in Section 36, Township 1 South, Range 4 East. This off-pad location will also house temporary tank batteries and facilities designed to contain fluids which will be surrounded by an impervious dike designed to contain 110% of the contents of the largest vessel should a spill or leak occur. All pipeline and other load lines will terminate within the bermed area. All long-term above ground production facilities will be painted the color *Covert Green* 18–0617 TPX.

Pipelines:

No pipelines are approved under this APD. Any pipelines associated with this well will need to be proposed and approved under a separate Sundry Notice.

Water Supply and Produced Water:

Water for drilling operations will be obtained from the Riverton Dome facility or the Beaver Creek Water Well No. 118. Water will be transported by an approved water hauler on county roads and state highways within the Beaver Creek Unit, and via existing and approved access roads within the Riverton Dome Field. All produced water will be disposed of within the Riverton Dome Field via pipeline from the Central Delivery Point (CDP) to the Riverton Dome Tribal No. 5 Disposal Well in Section 36, Township 1 South, Range 4 East.

Reclamation:

The operator's APD includes reclamation plans within the Surface Use Plan of Operations. These plans must meet the interim and final reclamation objectives of the BIA, the 2008 Riverton Dome EIS, and Chapter 6 of The Gold Book, Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development, Fourth Edition, 2007.

Interim well site reclamation consists of minimizing the footprint of disturbance by reclaiming all portions of the well site not needed for drilling and completion operations. The portions of the cleared well site not needed for operational and safety purposes are to be re-contoured to a final or intermediate contour that blends with the surrounding topography as much as possible. The disturbed areas will be scarified, topsoil re-spread evenly over areas not needed for all-weather operations, and the area seeded with a certified noxious weed-free, BIA approved seed mix of

native species appropriate for the site. Any topsoil and spoil piles set aside shall be re-vegetated upon well production to prevent the soil from eroding and to help maintain its biological viability (The Gold Book, 2007). In addition, all rat and mouse holes will be backfilled and compacted immediately after well completion and the reserve pit will be dried and backfilled. Interim road reclamation consists of reclaiming portions of the road not needed for vehicle travel.

Final reclamation occurs when the operator plugs the well due to a commercially unviable well site or the end of production. To achieve final reclamation of a recently drilled dry hole, the well site must be re-contoured to the original contour or a contour that blends with the surrounding landform, stockpiled topsoil redistributed, and the site re-vegetated as stated above. To achieve final reclamation of a formerly producing well, all topsoil and vegetation must be re-stripped from all portions of the old well site that was not previously reshaped to blend with the surrounding contour and seeded as stated above. Gravel and similar materials must be removed from the well's location or buried deep in the re-contoured cut. The entire location will be fenced following seeding until rehabilitation has been completed. Final road reclamation includes re-contouring the road back to the original contour, seeding, and any other techniques that will be helpful to improving reclamation success (The Gold Book, 2007). Weeds will be controlled on all disturbed areas within the exterior limits of the permit during the life of the project. Weed control methods will be in accordance with guidelines established by the EPA, BIA or appropriate authorities.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance:

There is no land use plan for the Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR). The Proposed Action is in conformance with the EA prepared for the proposed Land Management Activities by the Land Operations Section of the WRIR BIA, approved August 27, 1984. A copy of the EA is located at the BLM Lander Field Office. The BLM was not a cooperating agency in the EA prepared by the BIA.

C. Applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and Other Related Documents That Cover the Proposed Action:

Riverton Dome Coal Bed Natural Gas and Conventional Gas Development Environmental Impact Statement (Riverton Dome EIS, 2008)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria:

1. Is the new Proposed Action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes, the new Proposed Action is a feature of the alternatives analyzed in the 2008 Riverton Dome EIS. The alternatives analyzed in the Riverton Dome EIS describe the drilling and development of coal bed natural gas wells in the Riverton Dome Field under Section 2.4 Plan of Operations Common to All Alternatives as follows:

"Three alternatives, each having a range of 40–acre to 80-acre spacing, have been developed. This Plan of Operations describes development and operation methodologies that would be implemented for each well pad, access road and pipeline right-of-way (ROW), as well as production operations including produced water disposal wells, evaporation ponds, CDPs, compression, and CBNG and produced water pipelines…"

The 2008 Riverton Dome EIS, Section 2.6 Alternative B, Existing Leases, describes the details of the selected alternative as follows:

"Devon has indicated that a range of 70 to 151 CBNG wells may be drilled at 80-acre and 40-acre spacing, respectively. In addition, 20 conventional gas wells could be drilled under Alternative B. As with the Proposed Action, the initial spacing for each new well drilled is 80-acre spacing. 40-acre spacing would be utilized, if 80-acre spacing is not sufficient to efficiently produce the CBNG from the formation...."

Specific details of the proposed development are discussed in section 2.4 Plan of Operations Common to All Alternatives of the Riverton Dome EIS. The Proposed Action occurs within the Riverton Dome Field and the project area analyzed in the Riverton Dome EIS. The Riverton Dome EIS identifies the affected environment and environmental consequences of coal bed natural gas development within the Riverton Dome Field. The disturbance associated with the Proposed Action would remain within the same affected environment as analyzed in the Riverton Dome EIS, and the alternatives and environmental consequences cover the Proposed Action. The affected area has been adequately inventoried for cultural resources and evaluated for special status species, and clearance is recommended. The BIA has granted concurrence with the Proposed Action. All site specific COA and mitigation measures identified in the Riverton Dome EIS and the concurrence memo submitted by BIA are applicable to this project.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. The alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents are appropriate for the current Proposed Action. No new alternatives have been proposed to address additional issues or concerns. No new information has been identified that requires change or consideration of new alternatives.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessments, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new Proposed Action?

Yes. The 2008 Riverton Dome EIS analyzes impacts to the appropriate affected environment for the Proposed Action. There is no new information or circumstance that would invalidate the existing analysis. No new special status species have been identified on the site as of January 17, 2014. Data reaffirm that the NEPA documentation identified all resource concerns for the affected environment. The Proposed Action will not adversely affect Public Land Health Standards.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new Proposed Action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the current Proposed Action are not different from those identified in the existing NEPA documents, and the Proposed Action would not substantially change the cumulative impact analysis.

5. Are there public involvement and interagency reviews associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current Proposed Action?

Yes. Public outreach through scoping and involvement of the public and other agencies occurred in the development of existing NEPA documents. No new, interested parties have been identified from the previous public outreach.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

Table 1.1. List of Preparers

Name	Role	Discipline
Andrew Gibbs	DNA Author	Natural Resource Specialist
Trisha Cachelin	Concurrence, BIA Wind River Agency	Realty Officer
Ben Kniola	Reviewer	Assistant Field Manager

Note: See the 2008 Riverton Dome EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original NEPA documents.

F. Conclusion:

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirement of NEPA.

Field Manager, Lander Field Office, Richard VanderVoet Date

Note:

The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

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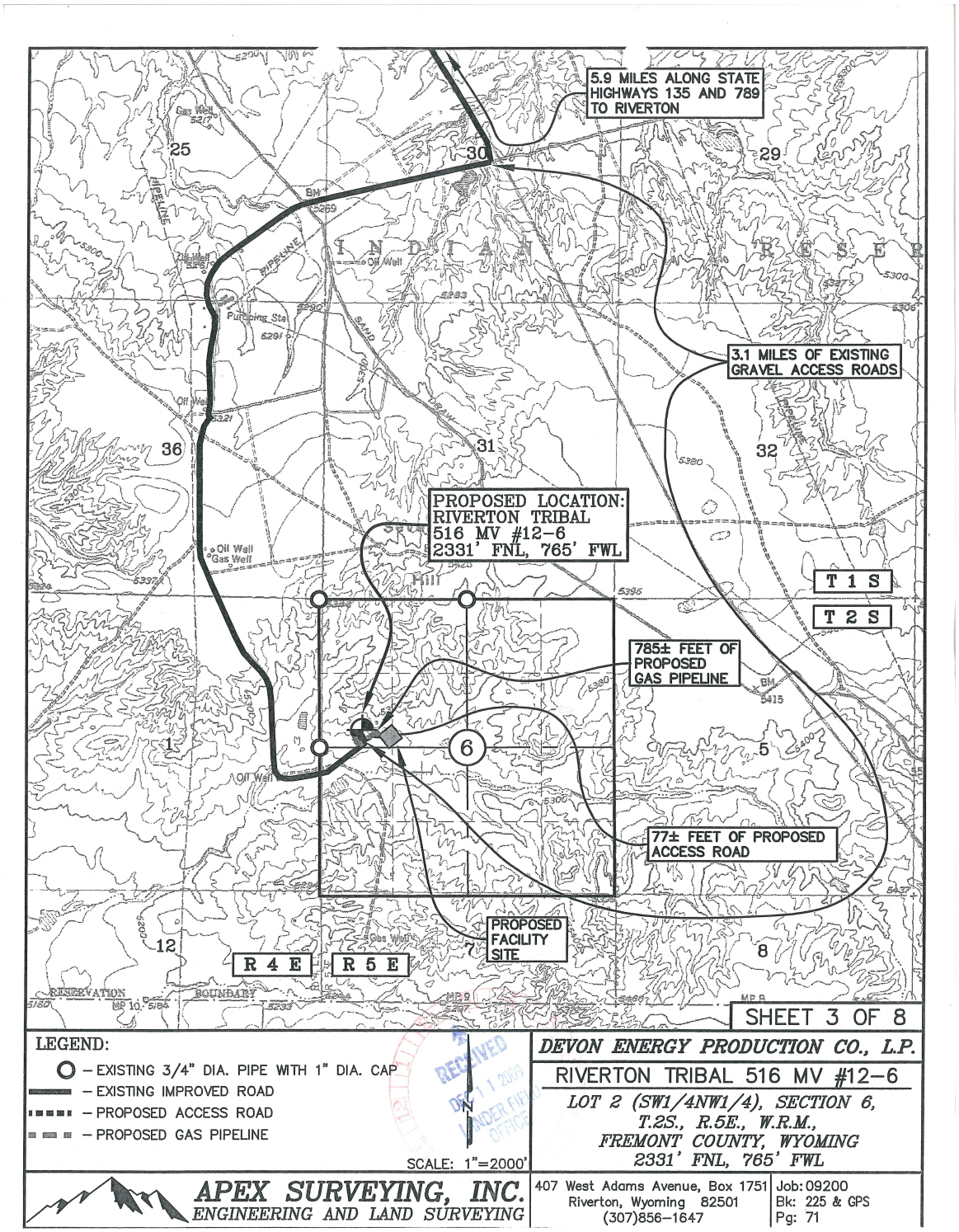
Appendix A. : Maps



Map A.1. Tribal 516 MV No. 12–6 Project Area