Oil and Gas Development Process

LAND USE PLANNING:
Determination if BLM/FS land is available for oil and gas leasing.
Public Participation and Review
(Time to complete 2 to 5+ years)

LEASING:
Industry submits Expression of Interest for tracts to the BLM.
(Time to complete 3 – 12+ months)

Parcel Review
Field Offices review parcels and forward leasing recommendations to the State Office **(Several months)**
Public Comment

Lease Sale
Parcels offered at competitive sale; if not sold, can be purchased noncompetitively for up to 2 years.
Public Review and Protest
(Time to complete 90 days)

PERMITTING:
NOS – Notice of Staking
Optional step (may skip and go directly to APD). To identify location, access, & pipeline requirements – streamlines the APD process
(Time to complete 15 days)

Geophysical Operations:
Perform seismic analysis of lands to identify potential fluid mineral bearing zones
(Time to complete 6 to 12+ months)

PERMITTING:
APD – Application for Permit to Drill
Applicant submits documentation to BLM officials
Public Notice
(For Federal APDs: 30 day posting, included in APD approval time)

APD Review:
Coordinated Review of APD – Applicant notified of completeness within 10 days. Concurrent review includes:

- Geological Review
- Engineering Review
- Hydro-geological Review
- NEPA Analysis – May Offer Public Comment
- Archeological Review
- Wildlife / Biological Review
- Right of Way Review
- Production Facility Review
- Required Documentation

(Time to complete 30 to 190+ days, included in APD approval time)

Concurrent Surface Management Agency Review (BIA, BOR, others as required):
Individual surface agencies make recommendations to BLM for approval, denial, or permit conditions.
(Time to complete 30 to 190+ days, included in APD approval time)

APD Approval with Conditions by BLM –
State Director Review or Appeal

Approved

Special Requests:
Operator may request variances, lease stipulation waivers, and modifications

Development of Lease:
Construction procedures must comply with approved surface use plan of operations. Excavation, roads, rig installation, pipelines, and other necessary infrastructure are developed
(Time to complete 3 to 20+ days)

Drilling Operations:
Operator begins drilling (spuds) well - additional approval may be required for certain well modifications
(Time to complete 1 to 365+ days from approval)

Production Operations:
Operator must notify BLM officer by Sundry Notice when well begins or resumes production
(Time to complete 10 to 180+ days after well spud)

Reclamation and Abandonment:
Sets a course of action for eventual restoration of the ecosystem. BLM must approve final abandonment
(Time to complete 1 to 5+ years)

Lease Termination
Wells plugged & lease successfully reclaimed
(60 days after Production stops)

INSPECTION & ENFORCEMENT and MONITORING