

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

DECISION RECORD

Mesa's 6 New Wells on the F01 Location.

DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0010-CX

DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0011-CX

DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0012-CX

DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0013-CX

DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0014-CX

DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0015-CX

Decision

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as described in contiguous-numbered categorical exclusions DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0010-CX through the DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0015-CX, authorizing, the construction, operation, and maintenance of the six additional wells to be drilled on Mesa's Buckhorn Draw F01 location.

Applicant Committed Design Features

1. Mesa will treat the access road and well pad with fresh water during construction and drilling activities so that there is not a visible dust trail behind vehicles. Mesa Energy has identified about 1,000 barrels of water per year for this purpose. A Mesa representative will monitor the condition of the access road and well pad during construction and drilling activities and order fresh water applications as needed so that there is not a visible dust trail behind vehicles. The use of chemicals as a dust suppressant on BLM lands will require prior written approval from BLM.
2. If any fossils are discovered during construction, the operator shall cease construction immediately and notify the AO so as to determine the significance of the discovery.
3. Mesa is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. Mesa will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is

completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. Mesa, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

4. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the operator/holder/applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator/holder/applicant must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
5. Comply with all Federal, State and/or local laws, rules, regulations, statutes, standards and implementation plans. This includes, but is not limited to, Onshore Orders, Surface Use Plans, State and Rio Blanco County permits.
6. Effectively coordinate with existing facility ROW holders.

BLM Required Conditions of Approval to Mitigate Impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources

If already committed to by the operator in Design Features or SUPO then removed from the below list.

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
2. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

Mitigation Measures

1. Gate on the access road of the location is to remain locked at all times except during times of high activity on the location.

2. Retention and maintenance of a permanent travel lane is not authorized along the pipeline corridor from its intersections with RBC Road 24X northeast to its intersection with the RBC Road 122 corridor. On these segments, the proponent will be responsible for installing physical controls to effectively deter unauthorized vehicle use along the right-of-way, as well as the controls' continuous maintenance, and, at a minimum, annual monitoring to assess the controls' efficacy and/or need for enhancing the means for vehicle control. Annual monitoring reports and documentation of maintenance activity will be forwarded to the BLM WRFO Authorized Officer by September 30 of each year.
3. No well, pad, road, or pipeline development, including clearing, construction, drilling, fracking, and completion activities, are allowed on the F01 location between 1 April and 15 May, unless it is established that no raptor nests exist within 150 meters of the existing pad margins. WRFO raptor nest timing limitations (TL-04, April 1-15 August) may be applied to lands within 200 meters of any nest that is occupied by 15 May.
4. If ground disturbance does expand outside of the original F01 location or access road footprint, operations must cease until SSPS surveys can be performed during the proper survey window, which will be during the blooming season.
5. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary rock must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.

Compliance with Laws & Conformance with the Land Use Plan

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

Public Involvement

This project was posted on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on November 18, 2014. As of January 14, 2015, no comments or inquiries have been received.

Rationale

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy of 2005. In approving these six wells to be drilled on this existing pad (currently two producing wells), it potentially would allow for the resources to be utilized without the disturbance of multiple other pads.

Monitoring and Compliance

On-going compliance inspections and monitoring of drilling, production, and post-production activities will be conducted by White River Field Office staff during construction of well pads, access roads, and pipelines. Specific mitigation developed in the associated Categorical Exclusion and the lease terms and conditions will be followed. The Operator will be notified of

compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

Administrative Remedies

There are different administrative remedy processes for authorizations issued under the authority of 43 CFR 3100 (on-lease oil and gas development) or 43 CFR 2800 (rights-of-way).

State Director Review

Under regulations addressed in 43 CFR 3165.3(b), any adversely affected party that contests a decision of the Authorized Officer may request an administrative review, before the State Director, either with or without oral presentation. Such request, including all supporting documentation, shall be filed in writing with the BLM Colorado State Office at 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 within 20 business days of the date such decision was received or considered to have been received. Upon request and showing of good cause, an extension may be granted by the State Director. Such review shall include all factors or circumstances relevant to the particular case.

Appeal

Any party who is adversely affected by the decision of the State Director after State Director review, under 43 CFR 3165.3(b), of a decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to the regulations set out in 43 CRF Part 4.

Signature of Authorized Official



Field Manager



Date