

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: *Hassayampa Field Office (HFO)*

NEPA/TRACKING NUMBER: *DOI – BLM – AZ – P010 – 2015 – 0002 – DNA*

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: *AZA – 36623*

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: *43CFR3715 Occupancy – Anglo-American*

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

NW¼ sec. 12, T. 6 N., R. 6 W., G&SRM, Maricopa County, AZ

APPLICANT (if any): *Anglo-American Exploration (USA), Inc.*

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The operator proposes directional drilling two boreholes at the above locations. Drill rig, personnel, and associated vehicles and equipment will be on site more than 14 days consecutively in a 24 hour working environment. Drilling contractor is Boart Longyear, ADWR & ADEQ forms have been filed and copies provided to this office.

Some road construction departing from the existing route inventory will be required to access the drill locations. Operator will reclaim surface disturbance and new roads to prevent route proliferation and preserve vegetative and wildlife habitat.

Drilling operations will be coring, with water as drilling fluid. Small recirculating sump will be in vicinity of drill rig during active coring. Drill holes will be abandoned and reclaimed per ADWR procedures and regulations, and copies of abandonment reports provided to BLM upon completion.

Proposed activity will take place approximately Dec. 1 - 24th, 2014.

Mitigation measures are designated as the “Performance Measures” and “Actions and Activities Not Allowed” listed in Appendix 4 of the “Finding of No Significant Impact and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for: Selected Actions for Mining Claim and Millsite Use and Occupancy in Arizona --November 18, 1997” (FONSI and PEA).

Further measures are outlined in the Anglo-American Exploration (USA), Inc. revised Notice of Intent received via email on November 14, 2014.

All operations are subject to the Performance Standards of 43CFR3715.5 and 43CFR3809.420.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: **Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan**

Date Approved/Amended: **4/22/2010**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

The plan states in Mineral Resources, under Land Use Allocations element MI-3 on page 33 that "All public lands within the planning area are open to locatable mineral activities except for Tule Creek ACEC, legislatively withdrawn areas and other withdrawn and segregated areas, as shown on Map 12 of the Land Use Plan."

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

The 43 CFR 3715 and 3809 regulations provide for the management of surface disturbance associated with mineral exploration and development including mining claim use and occupancy.

Finding of No Significant Impact and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Selected Actions for Mining Claim and Millsite Use and Occupancy in Arizona -- November 18, 1997.

Biological Resources Review, November 14, 2014

Cultural Resource Review, November 14, 2014

Surface Protection Review, November 12, 2014

Mining Law Administration Review November 14, 2014

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the 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 exiting NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Yes.

The proposed action involves no restricted lands specifically excluded in the "Finding of No Significant Impact and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Selected Actions for Mining Claim and Millsite Use and Occupancy in Arizona" --

November 18, 1997. Specifically, the proposed action is concurring with the following "typical occupancies" listed on page 3 of the aforementioned document: "2. Placing on public lands and using operational structures, process buildings, and storage structures needed for mining, milling, and beneficiation operations that are either general permitted or exempted from the APP program."

"7. Placing on public lands fences, gates, or signs designed to limit public access."

- 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 range of alternatives in the Finding of No Significant Impact and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for: Selected Actions for Mining Claim and Millsite Use and Occupancy in Arizona --November 18, 1997 is adequate since the proposed action is consistent with the actions previously covered.

- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and 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.

There is no new information or new circumstances that apply to the proposed action.

- 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.

The effects would be the same as those described in the Finding of No Significant Impact and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for: Selected Actions for Mining Claim and Millsite Use and Occupancy in Arizona --November 18, 1997.

- 5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Yes.

The proposed action is the same as that covered in the Finding of No Significant

Impact and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for: Selected Actions for Mining Claim and Millsite Use and Occupancy in Arizona --November 18, 1997
 The BLM issued a press release and direct mailings to announce a 30 day comment period for the FONSI and PEA in 1997. This public outreach process is adequate to cover the currently proposed action because it is the same as previously described.

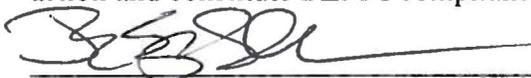
E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Judd Sampson	Geologist	Minerals /Water/Air/ BLM HFO
Paul Sitzmann	Wildlife Biologist	T&E / BLM HFO
Roy Draper	Surface Protection Specialist	Reclamation/Safety/Access/Fire/ BLM HFO
Bryan Lausten	Archaeologist	Cultural / BLM HFO

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents

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 constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.



 Judd Sampson – Hassayampa Field Office Geologist



 Gloria Tibbetts – Planning & Environmental Coordinator



 Rem Hawes – Hassayampa Field Office Manager

11/25/14

 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.