

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2015-0034
EOG Resources, Inc. Proposes to Drill Two New Federal Gas Wells on BLM
Surface in Alger Pass, Uintah County, Utah

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

"Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that EOG Resources Inc.'s proposed two gas wells in the Alger Pass area, Uintah County, Utah as described in the proposed action alternative of DOI-BLM-LLUTGO 1000-2015-0034-EA will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required."

/s/ Jerry Kenczka
Authorized Officer

/s/ May 21, 2015
Date

DECISION RECORD
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2015-0034

EOG Resources, Inc. Proposes to Drill Two New Federal Gas Wells on BLM Surface in Alger Pass, Uintah County, Utah

DECISION RECORD:

It is my decision to authorize EOG resources proposed two gas wells in the Alger Pass area, Uintah County, Utah as described in the proposed action alternative of DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2015-0034.

This decision is contingent on meeting all stipulations and monitoring requirements listed below, which were designed to minimize and/or avoid impacts.

Summary of the Selected Alternative:

- EOG Resources Inc. (EOG) will drill up to 2 new gas wells, in the Alger Pass area, Uintah County, Utah. The entire Project Area is located on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the proposal will be located entirely within the boundaries of Federal Lease UTU-70847. A BLM right of way (ROW) will not be required. There will be approximately 9.77 acres of new surface disturbance associated with the drilling or production of this well. If dry, the well will be plugged and abandoned per BLM and State of Utah requirements.
- Construction of the six wells, access roads, and pipelines will result in the following amount of surface disturbance:

Well Name and Number	Access Road	Surface Pipeline (40Ft temporary corridor with)*	Well Pad	Total Disturbance
Alger Pass 2-10	1,320 feet (40 ft. corridor width) 1.21 acre	1,867 feet (20 ft. permanent corridor width) 0.85 acre	1.84 acres	3.90 acres
Alger Pass 3-10	2,640 feet (40 ft. corridor width) 2.42 acre	3,507 feet (20 ft. permanent corridor width) 1.61 acre	1.84 acres	5.87 acres

*Permanent pipeline corridor width was used to determine surface disturbance because a surface pipeline is not anticipated to disturb the entire temporary construction corridor width.

Mitigation and Conditions of Approval

- During construction, topsoil storage areas will be identified with appropriate signage. Topsoil will be segregated from the subsoil (without mixing them), stockpiled separately from other soil materials, and maintained for future use in rehabilitating the locations. Topsoil piles stored beyond one growing season will be stabilized and seeded to prevent erosion.
- The operator will control noxious/invasive weeds along their roads, pipelines, well sites, or other applicable facilities by the application of herbicides or by mechanical removal until reclamation is considered to be successful by the authorized officer (AO) and the bond for the well is released. A list of noxious weeds shall be obtained from the BLM or the appropriate county extension office. On BLM-administered land, the operator will submit a Pesticide Use Proposal and obtain approval prior to the application of herbicides, other pesticides, or possible hazardous chemicals.
- Immediately upon well completion, the location and surrounding area shall be cleared of all unused tubing, equipment, debris, materials, and trash. Any hydrocarbons in the pit will be removed in accordance with 43 CFR 3162.7-1.
- All portions of the well pads not needed for production facilities/operations shall be recontoured to the approximate natural contours. Areas of the pad that will undergo interim reclamation will be spread with topsoil and seeded with an interim seed mixture approved by the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) after August 15th and prior to winter freezing of the soil. The seed mixture shall be worked into the topsoil with a drill seeder, bulldozer or other heavy equipment. If initial seeding is not successful, reseeding may be required.
- Once the wells are plugged and facilities are removed and abandoned, the well site, pipelines, and access roads will be returned to natural contours. The topsoil shall be respread, and the location seeded with a seed mixture approved by the BLM AO. The seed mixture shall be worked into the topsoil with a drill seeder, bulldozer or other heavy equipment.
- Revegetated areas will be inspected annually and monitored to document location and extent of areas with successful revegetation, and areas needing further reclamation (for a period of 5 years after construction completion). A reclamation report will be submitted to the AO by March 31 of each year.
- EOG will educate its contractors and employees about the relevant federal regulations intended to protect cultural resources. All vehicular traffic, personnel movement, construction and restoration activities shall be confined to areas cleared by the site inventory and to existing roads. In the event historic or archaeological resources are uncovered during construction, work will stop immediately and the appropriate BLM AO will be notified.

- EOG will educate its contractors and employees about the relevant federal regulations intended to protect paleontological resources. All vehicular traffic, personnel movement, construction, and restoration activities shall be confined to areas cleared by the site inventory and to existing roads. If any potential paleontological resources are uncovered during construction, work will stop immediately in the area and the appropriate BLM AO will be notified.
- The Project Area has been identified as having critical to severe soil erosion conditions and slopes exceeding 40%. Surface disturbing activities (including construction and drilling activities) will not be conducted during wet or muddy periods in order to minimize watershed damage due to erosion unless permission is given by the BLM Authorized Officer (AO). This will not apply to the operation and maintenance of producing wells.
- If culverts are required along the proposed access road(s), they will be a minimum of 18 inches in diameter and installed to meet BLM/USFS Gold Book standards.
- All permanent (on site for 6 months or longer) structures constructed or installed (including pumping units) will be painted Covert Green in order to blend with the surrounding vegetation. All facilities will be painted within 6 months of installation. Facilities required to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) are excluded.
- Whenever feasible, tanks and other equipment needed for production activities will be located toward the entrance (front) of the well pad in order to maximize interim reclamation.

Rationale for the Decision:

The selected alternative is in conformance with the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (BLM 2008).

The subject lands were leased for oil or gas development under authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as modified by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987. The lessee/operator has the right to explore for oil and gas on the lease as specified in 43 CFR 3103.1-2, and if a discovery is made, to produce oil and/or natural gas for economic gain.

The selected alternative is consistent with *Uintah County General Plan* (published in 2007) that encompasses the location of the proposed pipelines. In general, the plan indicates support for development proposals such as the selected alternative through the plan's emphasis of multiple-use public land management practices, responsible use and optimum utilization.

There are no comprehensive State of Utah plans for the vicinity of the selected alternative. However, the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) have leased much of the nearby state land for oil and gas production. Because the objectives of SITLA are to produce funding for the state school system, and because production on federal leases could further interest in drilling on state leases in the area, it is assumed that the selected alternative is consistent with the objectives of the State.

The selected alternative meets the BLM's need to acknowledge and allow development of valid existing leases. The BLM objective to reduce impacts is met by the imposing of mitigation measures to protect other resource values.

Summary of Public Involvement Efforts and Public Response

The Proposed Action was posted to the BLM E-planning NEPA Register on Feb 23, 2015. No public interest has been expressed.

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, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84145-0155, 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;
- and,
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Authorized Officer

Date