Decision Record

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
,

This page intentionally
left blank

Table of Contents

1. Decision Record 1

This page intentionally
left blank

Chapter 1. Decision Record

Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-UT-G010–2015–0034

This page intentionally
left blank

EOG Resources, Inc. proposes to drill two new gas wells on BLM administered lands in Section 10,, T11S R19E, Salt Lake Meridian, in the Alger Pass area in Uintah County, UT.

DECISION RECORD:

It is my decision to authorize EOG Resources, Inc. proposes to drill two new gas wells on BLM administered lands in Section 10,, T11S R19E, Salt Lake Meridian, in the Alger Pass area in Uintah County, UT. , 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 proposes to drill two gas wells with associated pipelines, well pads and roads in Section 10,, T11S R19E,. Pipelines will be laid on the surface.
- EOG resources will construct two new wells pads with a total of 3.68 acres of surface disturbance
- EOG resources will install 5,374 ft of new pipeline and have a temporary 40ft ROW for pipeline construction and a permanent 20ft ROW for pipeline maintenance.
- The proposed pipeline will be a 4” OD steel, zap-lok line laid on the surface
- EOG resources will construct 3,960 ft of new road which will have a disturbance width of 40ft.

Mitigation and Conditions of Approval

Air Quality

- All internal combustion equipment would be kept in good working order.
- Water or other approved dust suppressants would be used at construction sites and along roads, as determined appropriate by the Authorized Officer.
- Open burning of garbage or refuse would not occur at well sites or other facilities.
- Drill rigs would be equipped with Tier II or better diesel engines
- Low bleed pneumatics would be installed on separator dump valves and other controllers.
- During completion, not venting would occur, and flaring would be limited as much as possible. Production equipment and gathering lines would be installed as soon as possible.
- Telemetry will be installed to remotely monitor and control production.
- When feasible, two or more rigs (including drilling and completion rigs) will not be run simultaneously within 200 meters of each other. If two or more rigs must be run simultaneously

within 200 meters of each other, then effective public health buffer zones out to 200 meters (m) from the nearest emission source will be implemented. Examples of an effective public health protection buffer zone include the demarcation of a public access exclusion zone by signage at intervals of every 250 feet that is visible from a distance of 125 feet during daylight hours, and a physical buffer such as active surveillance to ensure the property is not accessible by the public during drilling operations. Alternatively, the proponent may demonstrate compliance with the 1-hour NO2 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) with appropriate and accepted near-field modeling. As part of this demonstration, the proponent may propose alternative mitigation that could include but is not limited to natural gas–fired drill rigs, installation of NOX controls, time/use restrictions, and/or drill rig spacing.

- All new and replacement internal combustion gas field engines of less than or equal to 300 design-rated horse power must not emit more than 2 grams of NOx per horsepower-hour. This requirement does not apply to gas field engines of less than or equal to 40 design-rated horsepower-hour.

- All new and replacement internal combustion gas field engines of greater than 300 design rated horsepower must not emit more than 1.0 grams of NOx per horsepower-hour.

- Green completions would be used for all well completion activities where technically feasible.

Soils

- EOG will adhere to Gold Book Standards to control erosion to prevent transport of sediments from runoff.

Invasive Weeds

- As operator, EOG resources, Inc. will control noxious weeds along Right-of-Ways for roads, pipelines, well sites, or other applicable facilities. A list of noxious weeds will be obtained from the BLM administered land, a pesticide Use proposal shall be submitted, and given approval, prior to the application of herbicides or other pesticide or possible hazardous chemicals.

Cultural

- EOG Resources, Inc. will inform all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they are subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological material are uncovered during construction, the operator will immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the Authorized Officer. Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used.

- A time frame for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation

Paleontology

- A permitted paleontologist is to be present for monitoring purposes during the beginning of construction and thereafter spot monitor as conditions merit.

Wildlife

- Water Depletion (Water Permit # 49-225(A31368)): If the pump head is located in the river channel where larval fish are known to occur, the following measures apply:
- Do not situate the pump in a low-flow or no-flow area as these habitats tend to concentrate larval fishes;
- Limit the amount of pumping, to the greatest extent possible, during that period of the year when larval fish may be present (see above); and
- Limit the amount of pumping, to the greatest extent possible, during the pre-dawn hours as larval drift studies indicate that this is a period of greatest daily activity.
- Screen all pump intakes with 3/32" mesh material.
- Report any fish impinged on the intake screen to the Service (801.975.3330) and the:

  Utah Division of Wildlife Resources:
  Northeastern Region152 East 100 North, Vernal, UT 84078
  Phone: (435) 781-9453

- If it is anticipated that construction or drilling will occur during any of the given timing restrictions, a BLM or qualified biologist should be notified so surveys can be conducted. Depending upon the results of the surveys, permission to proceed may or may not be granted by the Authorized Officer.
- *Discovery Stipulation*: Reinitiation of section 7 consultation with the USFWS will be sought immediately if any unanalyzed loss of plants or occupied habitat for Pariette cactus or Uinta Basin hookless cactus is anticipated as a result of project activities.

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.

Onsite visits were conducted by Vernal Field Office Personnel. The onsite inspection reports do not indicate that any other locations be proposed for analysis.

Summary of Public Involvement Efforts and Public Response

The Proposed Action was posted to the Utah BLM's ePlanning NEPA Document Register April 7, 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.

/s/ Jerry Kenczka	May 21, 2015
Authorized Officer	Date