U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field Office

June 2016

DECISION RECORD

QEP Energy Company Pesticide Use Proposal # WYD030-16-006-P
DNA Number: DOI-BLM-WY-D030-2016-0106-DNA

Decision: I have reviewed the Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), and the referenced Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-WY-030-2008-0150-EA). It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, authorizing the use of chemical treatment on multiple well pads, access roads, and ancillary facilities per the Conditions of Approval and Terms and Conditions on their permits, as described in the attached DNA (DOI-BLM-WY-D030-2016-0106-DNA) under the following conditions:

> Herbicides will be applied by a certified pesticide applicator or under their direct supervision following an approved Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP). The applicator will apply the herbicide(s) using a truck, tractor, atv with a boom sprayer, or backpack sprayer. Offsite drift will be controlled by spraying at low wind speeds and when rain is not forecasted for that day. A Pesticide Use Proposal (WYD030-16-006-P) will be approved prior to chemical application. Application can occur at any time during spring through fall--outside of wild horse herd management areas, can be up to two applications per year (depending upon the herbicide), and will take less than two hours to complete.
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> Within herd management areas, the following mitigation will be applied:
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> - Do not apply bromacil or diuron in grazing lands within herd management areas, and use appropriate buffer zones (see Vegetation section in Chapter 4 [FEIS]) to limit contamination of vegetation in off-site foraging areas.
> - Do not apply 2,4-D, bromacil, or diuron in herd management areas during the peak foaling season (March through June, and especially in May and June), and do not exceed the typical application rate of Overdrive® or hexazinone in HMAs during the peak foaling season.
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> The company will provide copies of the daily application records for the treated sites within 30 days of the application.

Rationale: The proposed action will result in the maintenance of bare ground around the well pads and associated facilities in order to promote fire and worker safety. It will also result in the control of invasive weed species along the well pad roads, pipelines, and on reclaimed portions of well pads. The proposed action does not cause any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.

Alternatives Considered: Alternatives were considered in the referenced EA: A) Proposed Action (chemical, biological, physical, and mechanical methods), B) No Aerial Herbicide Application, and C) No use of Herbicides. The Rawlins Field Office (RFO) Interdisciplinary Team did not identify any new issues; and therefore, no additional alternatives are required.

Plan Conformance and Consistency: The Proposed Action and alternatives meet the standards and direction of the various guiding laws, regulations, and directives that apply, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (43 USC 1701). The Proposed Action was reviewed and found to be in conformance with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), RFO Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), approved December 24, 2008, as amended.

Mitigation and Monitoring: Mitigation measures described in the referenced EA (from the *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (2007) that are applicable are listed under the Proposed Action above, and will be applied to this project. Monitoring will include vegetation transects, photographs, and ocular reconnaissance.

Appeal: This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken (see 43 CFR 4.410), your notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days (see 43 CFR 4.411) from receipt of this decision to:

Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field Office
P.O. Box 2407
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why you think the final decision is in error (see 43 CFR 4.412).

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulations at 43 CFR 4.21 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board of Land Appeals, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Rawlins Field Manager

JUN 06 2016
Date