

## **Statement of Adverse Energy Impact Questions and Answers**

These Questions and Answers clarifies some of the inquires which we have received concerning the preparation of the Statement of Adverse Energy Impact (SAEI).

### **What is the purpose the purpose of a SAEI?**

The basic purpose for preparing a SAEI is: 1) to ensure that BLM employees are aware of the President's policies; and 2) consistent with that policy to track and compile BLM's activities with respect to the impact on energy production, development and transmission on public lands; and measure success in meeting the President's goals.

### **What is a SAEI?**

An SAEI is brief description of the facts associated with a BLM decision or action which presents information on the decision's or action's impact on the development, production and/or transmission of energy resources. It is not an assessment or impact analysis of the decision and most importantly NOT a decision document.

Since SAEI reflects the facts associated with the decision or action and is being used to assess BLM's impact on energy production, development and transmission as a result of those decisions, the SAEI is normally prepared after a decision has been made.

### **When does a SAEI need to be prepared?**

You will need to prepare a SAEI when any decision made by you will have a direct or indirect "adverse" impact on energy development, production, supply and/or distribution. This includes decisions or actions which may or may not require NEPA documentation, these can include other major policy, budget or land management decisions that can have an adverse consequence on energy resource availability.

Examples:

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Each manager should make an initial determination as to whether there is a direct or indirect connection between the decision and an energy resource (solar, wind, oil and gas, coal, geothermal, biomass) and secondly that there is an adverse affect.

### **What is meant by direct or indirect connection?**

A direct or indirect connection is whether there is a link or interrelationship between the decision and an energy-related resource.

- 1) Does the decision directly affect or influence the exploration, development, production or transmission of energy resources? Example: Denial of a waiver to extend a drilling period.
- 2) Does the decision indirectly affect or influence the exploration, development, production or transmission of energy resources? Example: Road closures that prevents access to an adjacent area open to energy development or Series of stipulations which in themselves do not prevent development but jointly result in a defacto withdrawal.
- 3) Does the decision alter the energy-related proposal or activity in such a way that the final outcome results in significant delays, increased cost, and/or reduced production or transmission of the energy resource? Example: Rerouting of a pipeline which increase operator costs, and reduces amount of oil transported.
- 4) Does the decision interfere with the availability, development, production or transmission of the energy resource? Example: Establishment of a buffer zone such that the operator is unable to access the resources.
- 5) Does the decision alter the way the bureau does business such that it adversely affect the bureau's management of the energy resource and the bureau's ability to meet its customers needs. Example: A policy decision which creates new withdrawals or land closures without consideration of existing energy-related resource potential.

### **What is meant by adverse?**

Adverse means when there is an outcome of a decision or action that results in a requirement, condition or situation that causes a consequential negative or unfavorable affect on the availability, development, production or transmission of energy resources such that it would result in a cancellation of energy or energy-related project or materially prevent production from the public lands.

### **Do we need to prepare a SAEI for adverse effects on renewable energy resources?**

Yes. A SAEI needs to be prepared for all types of energy resources both renewable and non-renewable, as well as adverse effects on supporting infrastructure such as pipelines or transmission lines.

## **What are the types of decisions that might result in an adverse effect on energy?**

Any decision which results in a major reduction or loss of use, supply or distribution of energy resources can be considered an adverse effect. In most cases, these decisions are denial of a proposed energy project or activity, decisions resulting in major delays or postponement of the action, closing or unduly restricting areas to energy and mineral leasing or permitting, restricting all practicable or reasonable access or the ability to develop the resources, requiring major changes in a proposed action or activity, and establishing policies which would indirectly substantially alter energy supply or distribution, significantly delaying operations or acting on a proposed action.

It is important to note that a single decision may not have an adverse effect however, multiple decisions or activities could have an overall adverse effect.

## **When should BLM Offices begin preparing the SAEI?**

BLM Offices should have begun preparing SAEI for all decisions made in January 2002.

## **What if there is NO adverse impact on energy does a SAEI need to be prepared?**

No, you do not need to prepare a SAEI.

## **What should be included in the SAEI?**

- A. A **general description** of the action or decision that will give the reader an understanding of the nature of the action or decision. At a minimum it should include: 1) a brief description, 2) the location, 3) date, 4) energy resource being affected, 5) acres affected, 6) amount of resources affected and 7) any associated identification number, etc.
- B. A **Rationale for the Decision** should include a brief description of the decision and provide sufficient information to allow the reader to understand the reasons for the decision or action, and as appropriate it also important to provide the reader reason why the energy-related use or decision cannot co-exist with other multiple uses of the land.
- C. A list of **Alternatives** that were considered, as appropriate.
- D. A description of **Energy Impact** should be a brief summary of the major adverse effects on the supply, distribution and use of the energy resource. The description should provide the reader an understanding of the consequences associated with the loss or reduction in energy use, supply or distribution. It can be qualitative in nature. A detailed economic analysis is not required. However, there should be sufficient information to provide the reader with the understanding of the nature of the adverse affect, the reductions in availability or increased costs.

Example: A proposed pipeline carrying capacity of xxx barrels of oil has been reduced to yy barrels of oil. If there is quantitative information, and without releasing proprietary information, it should be provided.

**How long should the Statement be?**

The statement should be brief. The SAEI should be no more than a summary of existing information being used to make the decision. For complex decision, additional information can be referenced and/or summary tables attached.

**How long should it take to prepare a SAEI?**

SAEI should be able to be prepared relatively quickly since it is based on existing information associated with the decision. If existing information is not available, a re-analysis of the action may be needed since the original analysis did not adequately consider the adverse energy impacts.

**Who approves the SAEI?**

The SAEI will be approved by the State Director or delegated representative in the State Office. A State Lead should be identified to forward all SAEI to the National Energy Office on a monthly basis.

**Where do we send copies of the SAEI?**

Electronic copies (preferred) or hard copies should be sent to the National Energy Office (WO-300) on a monthly basis.