

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

CO-130-2008-002-EA Homer Deep Wells 15-23 and 21-41

The environmental assessment and detailed analyses of the environmental effects of the Homer Deep wells have been reviewed. I have considered the proposed action to allow Black Hills Plateau Production LLC to drill the wells as detailed in this EA and find, based on the analysis of environmental considerations provided therein, no evidence to indicate that it would significantly (40 CFR 1508.27) impact the quality of the human environment. The proposal, as modified by the recommended and attached mitigation measures, does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment in the context of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), section 102(2)(c). This results in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to approve the proposed action (drilling Homer Deep wells #15-23 and #21-41), with mitigation measures and Conditions of Approval, in order to provide for the orderly, economical, and environmentally sound exploration of gas resources on valid leases.

This decision does not modify any lease terms and stipulations attached to the specific leases involves. Development of the wells may require additional NEPA compliance if it is out of the scope of this analysis.

RATIONALE: The environmental analysis adequately analyzes the direct and cumulative impacts of Homer Deep wells #15-23 and #21-41, including impacts on private and public lands. Impacts are adequately considered in the Environmental Assessment. Environmental impacts will be mitigated with measures included in the Proposed Action and outlined in the Environmental Assessment.

MITIGATION MEASURES: Mitigation measures are included in the Environmental Consequences and Mitigation sections of the Environmental Assessment, for each natural resource and in the Conditions of Approval. Conditions of Approval will be appended to APDs as they are approved by the Field Manager.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance and monitoring will be conducted by BLM and Black Hills as scheduled in the Inspection and Enforcement Strategy, as discussed in the EA and as needed to assure conformance with federal law, regulations, and conditions of approval. Monitoring will also be conducted during construction in areas where the federally listed Uinta

Basin hookless cactus and other special status species are present.

APPEALS: The decisions made in this EA may be appealed for 30 days after the Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) are approved.

In accordance with 43 CFR 3165.3, the public may request a State Director Review upon approval of the APD(s) for this proposed project. This request must be submitted in writing within 20 business days from the date of APD approval. The request should be sent to: Colorado State Director, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood Colorado 80215. The decision of the State Director may then be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with 43 CFR 3165.4.

Copies of the Homer Deep Environmental Assessment are available for review at the BLM Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506. For further information please contact Matt Anderson by phone or e-mail: 970-244-3000 or Matt_Anderson@blm.gov.

NAME OF PREPARERS: Julia Christiansen (BLM)

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Matt Anderson

DATE: August 29, 2008

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:


GRAND JUNCTION, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 9/5/08