

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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EMS TRANSMISSION

Instruction Memorandum No. 96-106

Expires: 9/30/97

To: AFO's

From: Director

Subject: Processing Right-of-Way Applications Associated with Oil and Gas Development

ISSUE SUMMARY: The Application for Permit to Drill (APD) Project Team (Team) analyzed the issue of "Separate Processing of Rights-of-Way (ROWs) and APDs." In many offices, the separate handling of ROWs and APDs, often by different staffs, causes delays in authorizations and duplication of effort. To resolve this problem, the Team has recommended greater integration of the processing of ROWs and APDs.

BLM POSITION: The recommendation of the APD Team are consistent with current Bureau of Land Management (BLM) policy and procedure. The BLM fully supports the recommendation of the Team.

BACKGROUND: Procedures for Approval of Oil and Gas Associated ROWs were approved on March 19, 1987. Detailed background information on the development of the procedures was provided in Instruction Memorandum No. 87-349 (IM). All personnel involved with the processing of APDs and ROWs should review the IM. The procedures approved in the IM were incorporated into BLM Manual 2801.32C (Rel. 2-263) on March 8, 1989. The Team, WO-310 and WO-350, have reviewed the manual procedures and agree the guidance is still appropriate, and relevant to processing APDs and ROWs. It is important to note, the information provided in the surface use program submitted with an APD (also including Sundry Notices or Notices of Staking) shall serve as the data base (plan of development) for ROW processing.

REQUIRED ACTIONS: All Field Offices shall review their local procedures for processing oil and gas associated ROWs. To the greatest extent practical, and with all deliberate speed, those local procedures should incorporate the guidance at BLM Manual 2801.32C.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum contact Ron Montagna at WO-350, at (202) 452-7782 or via GroupWise. Questions regarding the Teams recommendation can be directed to Del Fortner, Bakersfield District Office, (805) 391-6009, or via GroupWise.

Signed
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Authenticated
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