



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Release 3-330

Date
January 9, 2007

MANUAL TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Subject

H - 3150-1- ONSHORE OIL AND GAS GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION SURFACE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (PUBLIC)

CHANGE: This change is being added to the existing H-3150 Handbook for Onshore Oil and Gas Geophysical Exploration Surface Management Requirements. Under Insert please add Illustration 16, "Standard Terms and Conditions".

1. Explanation of Material Transmitted:
Illustration 16, "Standard Terms and Conditions", these requirements apply to all Notices of Intent to conduct geophysical operations utilizing a categorical exclusion for National Environmental Policy Act compliance.
2. Reports Required:
None.
3. Material Superseded
None.
4. Filing Instructions
File as directed below, immediately following Manual Illustration 15, "Example of an Inspection Notification Letter".

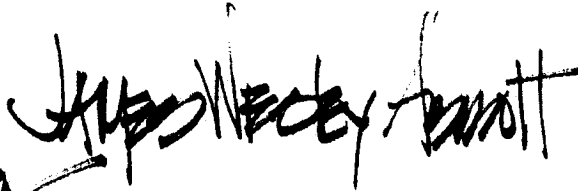
Remove:

None

Insert:

All of Illustration 16

(Total: 2 Sheets)

Acting

 Assistant Director,
 Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection

H-3150-1 – ONSHORE OIL AND GAS GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION SURFACE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (PUBLIC)

BLM Standard Terms and Conditions

1. The operator shall contact the Field/District Office at least 48 hours prior to the start of the project to schedule a pre-work conference. The crew supervisor and additional crew chiefs (if needed) will attend the pre-work conference to discuss the terms and conditions for this operation.
2. The operator's representative will attend a meeting with the BLM to discuss cultural artifacts and potential penalties for tampering with cultural artifacts. The meeting can be held as part of the pre-work conference.
3. The operator will obtain permission from right-of-way holders prior to drilling and setting charges within authorized limits of the rights-of-way.
4. Existing routes and trails will be used to the maximum extent possible. The heliportable drill or other BLM approved technique will be used on the areas with steep slopes and rough terrain. Attempts to traverse irregular, soft, or steep slopes and terrain by all vehicles and equipment shall be kept to a minimum to avoid excessive rutting, soil erosion, excessive crushing of vegetation, and excessive visual impacts. Vehicular travel along the flagged lines will be kept to a minimum and be in a zigzag pattern between source points to reduce straight line disturbances. This procedure does not apply to vehicles following trails or roads.
5. Vehicular travel shall be suspended when ground conditions are wet enough to cause rutting or other noticeable surface deformation and severe compaction. As a general rule, if vehicles or other project equipment create ruts in excess of four inches deep when traveling cross-country over wet soils, the soil shall be deemed too wet for vehicular use.
6. The staging area(s) will be situated with good, safe access to county roads or state highways. The fuel truck for the helicopter will also be utilized at the staging area(s).
7. The staging area(s) shall be kept clean and free of litter. Appropriate human waste facilities will be provided and properly maintained. Such waste facilities shall be removed from the site upon completion of the project.
8. Roads will not be constructed for geophysical projects authorized under a categorical exclusion.
9. Operators of vehicles and equipment shall be responsible for not damaging fences and keeping gates as found. As a last resort, should a fence be cut for access, that fence must be repaired to former or better condition, after equipment has passed through.
10. Shot holes will be backfilled and plugged, in accordance with state regulations, after they are loaded with the explosive charge. Any cuttings resulting from shot hole drilling and not used in

**H-3150-1 – ONSHORE AND GAS GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION
SURFACE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (PUBLIC)**

backfilling the shot hole will be scattered about the immediate area to blend with natural terrain and reduce visual impacts.

11. Geophysical equipment may encounter congested areas with trees requiring one or more trees to be removed and or limbed. If such action is needed then the tree(s) and or limb(s) shall be less than eight (8) inches at diameter breast height (dbh) or at the base of the branch. Trees to be cut or limbed which are located adjacent to public roads, communities and or public facilities shall be immediately cut into smaller pieces so that it is not aesthetically displeasing and dispersed within the immediate vicinity.

12. Any and all tire tracks one hundred feet (100'), leading away from an established dirt or two-track road situated on public lands, will be hand raked to blend into the surrounding soil surface.

13. If soil is disturbed to the extent that erosion is likely or visual impacts are readily apparent, the disturbed areas will be rehabilitated utilizing the following techniques:

Ruts and vehicle tracks will be filled with soil and/or obliterated by either hand raking or similar method. When completing this work, care will be taken to minimize disturbance to surrounding lands that have not been disturbed. All areas where rehabilitation work is accomplished will be reseeded with the seed mixtures specified below:

Seed Mix

(To be provided by the local BLM Field/District Office.)

The seeded area should be hand raked to assure the seed is covered with approximately ¼ to ½ inch of soil. This seeding should be accomplished during the late fall, in October or November, before moisture conditions become prohibitive.

The seed shall be certified, pure live seed, and seed tags must be available if requested by the authorized officer. Certified weed free seed is to be used to rehabilitate disturbed land.

14. Setbacks and Buffers: the operator will adhere to setbacks or "buffer zones" that are set forth in the following tables.

**H-3150-1 – ONSHORE OIL AND GAS GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION
SURFACE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (PUBLIC)**

**Offset in Feet, from Certain Objects
(based on pounds of explosive charge)**

Object	½ lb	1 lb	2 lbs	3 lbs	5 lbs	6 to 10 lbs	11 to 15 lbs	16 to 20 lbs
Pipeline less than 6" diameter	50'	100'	150'	150'	200'	250'	300'	400'
Pipeline 6" to 12" diameter	75'	150'	200'	200'	300'	400'	500'	600'
Pipeline greater than 12" diameter	100'	200'	250'	250'	300'	500'	600'	800'
Telephone line	20'	20'	30'	40'	40'	50'	50'	50'
Railroad Track or main paved Highway	50'	100'	150'	150'	150'	220'	280'	350'
Electric Powerline (Shot holes not to exceed 200' depth)	75'	100'	200'	200'	200'	200'	250'	300'
Water wells, buildings, underground cistern, and all other similar objects	225'	300'	400'	450'	700'	800'	1000'	1200'
Brick and/or concrete block buildings	275'	400'	500'	600'	800'	1000'	1200'	1500'
Producing oil and gas well	250'	450'	600'	700'	800'	900'	1000'	1000'
Irrigation wells	500'	800'	1000'	1200'	1500'	2000'	2500'	2500'

Minimum Safe Offset In Feet for Vibrator Truck Operations

Structures	Distance (ft)
Residences, Buildings, Concrete Base Structures	300
Water Wells	350
Concrete Water Pipeline	100
PVC/Plastic Water Pipeline	20
Oil or Gas Well	250
Oil or Gas High Pressure Pipelines	30
High Voltage Power Lines	0
Local Transmission Power Lines	0

15. No equipment, only foot traffic laying receiver lines, will be used in swampy/wetland areas.

**H-3150-1 –ONSHORE OIL AND GAS GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION
SURFACE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (PUBLIC)**

16. If any unanticipated prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or paleontological sites are encountered during the geophysical work, the work shall stop and the appropriate BLM archaeologist at the Field/District Office will be contacted. If a site is found, it will be recorded. The BLM will assume responsibility for evaluation and determination of significance, related to the historical or archaeological site. All known cultural resources sites will be avoided. Collection of any cultural or paleontological artifacts, bones or fossils from Federal lands is specifically prohibited.
17. Visible migratory bird nests will be avoided and not disturbed.
18. All equipment will be power washed prior to entering Federal lands to help mitigate the spread of noxious plants.
19. In order to minimize watershed damage and disturbance to game animals utilizing important seasonal wildlife habitat, seismic activity will only be allowed during the period from May 15 to December 15. Exceptions to this limitation may be specifically approved by the authorized officer.
20. When fire conditions reach high, the helicopter, vehicles, and equipment will carry water, shovels, and other fire fighting equipment to extinguish any fires that are accidentally started by the seismic operations.
21. If oil, lubricants and other petroleum or man-made products are accidentally spilled onto the ground surface, the BLM will be contacted and provided specific information about the spill and/or leak. Spills or leaks will be cleaned from the soil and any contaminated material will be bio-remediated or disposed of at an authorized landfill.
22. All flagging, lath, pin flags, and similar materials used in the seismic project will be removed from public land and disposed of at an authorized landfill.
23. All Applicant-Committed Environmental Protection Measures documented in the applicant's NOI will be complied with in addition to these terms and conditions.