

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office
1235 La Plata Highway
Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Project: July 22, 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale EA Log Number: F010-2009-217

Location: Various Locations: Rio Arriba, McKinley, Sandoval, and San Juan Counties

Finding of No Significant Impact

Impact identification and analysis of approving the project proposal and/or alternative(s) has been completed. Environmental analysis has been conducted based on available inventory and monitoring data files. An environmental assessment has been prepared and revised as necessary. The proposed action conforms with and is within the scope of the land use decisions described in the Farmington Resource Management Plan with Record of Decision, approved December 2003 and analyzed in the Farmington Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), March 2003. Implementation of required stipulations and/or mitigating measures, will maintain impacts within those levels analyzed in the PRMP/FEIS. Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Decision Record

Decision:

It is my decision to recommend that the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management offer for competitive sale five (5) of the nineteen (19) parcels of federal minerals originally listed in the Draft Sale Parcel List with the addition of further stipulations and lease notices to certain parcels. See Appendix 1, Table 1.

NM-200907-073 through 076, and
NM-200907-082

Rationale:

The parcels described in Appendix 1, Exhibit 1 of the EA were reviewed by an interdisciplinary group of specialists at the Farmington Field Office. The purpose of the review was to determine if the nineteen (19) parcels were in areas open to oil and gas leasing, if leasing was in conformance with the existing land use plans; if new information had been developed which might affect leasing suitability, to ensure that appropriate lease stipulations were attached to each lease parcels, and to verify that appropriate consultations had been conducted.

BLM inventory and monitoring data files and the professional opinion of BLM endangered species specialists is that no federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species would be adversely affected by sale of the five (5) lease parcels. Affects of oil and gas leasing and development on Threatened and Endangered species were analyzed in the Section 7 consultation conducted for the PRMP/FEIS. No new information has been uncovered, which would change that analysis. Additional review and analysis would occur when site specific proposals for development are received.

Consultation with the Navajo Nation and Navajo Chapters in which some lease parcels occur has uncovered no new

information regarding Traditional Cultural Properties or other cultural resources. Withholding specific parcels from this sale will allow the Navajo Nation and chapter's sufficient time to review the locations in order to determine if there are any site specific concerns of which the BLM may not be aware. Detailed site specific cultural resource inventories will be required as part of any site specific project development on the lease parcels.

Stipulations

Mitigating measures and/or stipulations were considered and analyzed in the environmental assessment. Appropriate lease stipulations and lease notices will be attached to individual parcels as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 of the EA.

Administrative Review and Appeal:

This protest process for this Decision Record has been instituted to reconcile differences between oil and gas lease sale and NEPA regulations; and improve the opportunities for public input into agency decisions. This Decision Record for the Environmental Assessment must be protested under 43 CFR 3120.1-3. Protests must be received within 30 days of the signed decision record. You may file a protest by mail, in hardcopy form or by telefax. You may not file a protest sent to a fax number other than the fax number identified below. Any protests filed by electronic mail will be dismissed. A protest filed by fax must be sent to (505) 438-7458 or by mail to: BLM New Mexico, 1474 Rodeo Road, PO Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502 Attn: Minerals-Protests.

A protest must state the interest of the protesting party in the matter. The protest must also include any statement of reasons to support the protest. We will dismiss a late-filed protest or a protest filed without a statement of reasons.

If the party signing a protest is doing so on behalf of an association, partnership or corporations, the signing party must reveal the relationship between them. Before including your phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, you should be aware that your entire protest – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Approved by _____ Date _____
Steve Henke, District Manager

Reviewed by _____ Date _____
Joel Farrell, Assistant District Manager

Prepared by _____ Date _____
Maureen Joe, Project Manager