

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT OFFICE

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
APRIL 2009 OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE
DOI-BLM-NM-A010-2009-006-EA**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have reviewed this EA and determined that the proposed action will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan. If these parcels are leased and application for development occurs, additional NEPA will be required.

Analysis determined that leasing the subject tracts could lead to eventual development which would result in small incremental increases in GHG emissions. These emissions would be mitigated by special conditions of approval developed for specific development proposals.

Decision Record/Decision Rationale

It is my decision to offer for lease eleven parcels covering 9552.98 acres of Federal Minerals at the New Mexico State Office April 2009 Oil and Gas Lease Sale.

Oil and gas leasing is considered to be an undertaking for purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In accordance with NMSO IM 2004-035, a staged approach is used in the identification and evaluation of cultural properties for oil and gas leasing. Consultation with Native American tribes to identify traditional cultural properties and sacred sites takes place at the leasing stage. Identification of historic properties takes place at the APD stage of lease development. Consultation with these tribes was initiated on November 12, 2008. No impacts to traditional cultural properties and sacred sites have been identified. Cultural resource inventories will be undertaken and impacts to archeological sites will be assessed at the APD stage.

The parcels described in Appendix 1 of the EA were reviewed by an interdisciplinary group of specialists at the Albuquerque District Office. The purpose of the review was to determine if the 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 parcel; 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 known federally listed threatened, endangered, critical habitat or proposed species would be adversely affected by sale of the lease parcels. BLM files may have incomplete inventory data for lease proposal areas, so site specific analysis, inventory, and necessary consultations if required, would be done at the APD stage prior to development of the lease.

The impact to minority or low-income populations or communities was considered and no significant impact is anticipated.

Mitigation Measures/Remarks

For all parcels, Standard Oil and Gas lease stipulations along with Standard terms and conditions as well as Special Cultural Resource Lease Notice NM-11-LN and lease notices Washington Office: Threatened and Endangered Species Stipulation (included within Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-174), Migratory Bird Species-Interim Management Guidance Policy (included within Instruction Memorandum No. 2008-050), LEASE NOTICE: BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES, LEASE NOTICE: RAPTORS, MIGRATORY BIRDS, AND PRAIRIE DOG SURVEYS, LEASE NOTICE: BIOLOGICAL SURVEY and other WO and state guidance would apply and attached to any parcel that is leased. For parcels NM-200904-100 through 104 and 105 through 109, lease stipulation RPRA-11 and for parcel NM-200904-138, lease stipulations SRA-1 and SRA-3.

Protests

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.

Field Office Manager: /s/ Thomas E. Gow **Date:** 3/24/2009