

Decision Record
Entek Energy GRB LLC, Focus Ranch Unit Geographic Area Plan (FRU GAP)
Environmental Assessment (EA), DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0016-EA
Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Field Office, Colorado

DECISION:

The BLM hereby approves the Entek Energy GRB LLC, Focus Ranch Unit Geographic Area Plan (GAP) Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) and associated sundry notices as described in the **Modified Proposed Action Alternative** of the environmental assessment #DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0016-EA. It is my decision to approve implementation of the project with the mitigation measures provided in the APDs and the Conditions of Approval (COAs).

DECISION RATIONAL: The BLM bases the decision authorizing the Modified Proposed Action Alternative on the following rationale:

1. The BLM's decision to select the Modified Proposed Action Alternative is appropriate because it will facilitate reasonable, economical and environmentally-sound exploration and development of oil and gas resources consistent with the Little Snake Resource Management Plan, 2011 (Little Snake RMP, October, 2011, Record of Decision, page RMP-36).

The BLM has required Entek to include adequate design features and mitigation measures to reduce environmental impacts while meeting the project's need. A complete description of all standard and site-specific COAs, the APD 12-point surface use plan, well location maps, and associated sundry notices can be found as attachments to the **Entek Energy GRB LLC, Focus Ranch Unit Geographic Area Plan (FRU GAP) Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0016-EA**

2. The following well case files are located in the Little Snake Field Office:
 - COC59666, FRU Federal Well #33-13
 - COC59491, FRU Federal Well #4-14
 - COC59491, Federal Well #3-1
3. The Operator is required to:
 - Comply with the approved APDs and sundry notices, applicable laws, regulations, orders, and notices to lessees.
 - Obtain necessary permits from agencies.
 - Incorporate several measures to alleviate resource impacts into their submitted surface use plan and drilling plan.
 - Purchase or donate the funds to purchase five GPS collars by January 1, 2014. Colorado Parks and Wildlife would collar five grouse in the FRU GAP area to track habitat use.

4. The approved APDs are pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act for the purpose of exploring or developing oil or gas and do not satisfy the categorical exclusion directive of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Section 390 because this project required an alternative analysis.
5. The BLM's decision to select the Modified Proposed Action Alternative will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.
6. This decision does not foreclose the lessee or operator to propose a new or supplementary plan for developing the federal oil and gas lease(s) in this project area, including submission of additional APDs to drain minerals in accord with lease rights and law.

COMPLIANCE: This decision complies with:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (43 USC 1701; DOI Order 3310).
- Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA) (30 USC 181); to include On Shore Order No. 1.
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 USC 4321).
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) (16 USC 470).
- Little Snake Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP) 2011.

SELECTED ALTERNATIVE: The BLM summarizes the details of the approval of the Modified Proposed Action below. The EA includes the project description, specific changes made during the onsite inspections, and site-specific mitigation measures.

The Modified Proposed Action is to approve 2 APDs and the sundry notice approving a portion of the "middle by-pass" re-route of the main access road, as submitted by Entek, to provide access only as far as the existing #3-1 well. All of the construction and reclamation plans described in the Proposed Action would remain the same for the following proposed wells:

- COC59666, FRU Federal Well #33-13, SWSW, Sec. 33, T. 12 N., R. 88 W., 6th PM, Routt County.
- COC59491, FRU Federal Well #4-14, SESW, Sec. 4, T. 11 N., R. 88 W., 6th PM, Routt County.
- COC59491, Federal Well #3-1, SENW, Sec. 3, T. 11 N., R. 88 W., 6th PM, Routt County.

LIMITATIONS:

See COAs attached to individual APDs and Sundry Notices. The following APDs are deferred in order to protect priority greater sage grouse habitat until additional analysis can be done to determine whether or not significant impacts could occur:

- COC59203, FRU Federal Well #11-14, SESW, Sec. 11, T. 11 N., R. 88 W., 6th PM, Routt County.
- COC59663, FRU Stull Federal Well #28-2, NWNE, Sec. 28, T. 12 N., R. 88 W., 6th PM, Routt County.

In addition, the portion of the “middle by-pass” re-route of the main access road extending east and south from the existing #3-1 well to the existing #12-1 well is denied in order to protect priority greater sage grouse habitat.

COMMENT OR NEW INFORMATION SUMMARY: DOI-BLM-N010-2013-0016-EA was posted for public comment on the LSFO NEPA website for 30 days. Approximately 60 individuals, organizations and companies submitted comments during the 30 day comment period. Issues identified included sage grouse habitat, big game habitat, disruption of hunting/guiding operations, road damage, riparian area damage, sensitive soils, sharp-tailed grouse habitat, air quality, compliance with NEPA, social-economics, degradation to surface water, invasive species (both aquatic and terrestrial), public health and safety, recreation, livestock grazing operations and private property rights. The summarized comments and the LSFO BLM responses are presented in table format in Appendix E.

MITIGATION MEASURES: The APD 12-point surface use plans, well location maps, associated sundry notices, and COAs are found in the following well case files at the LSFO:

- COC59666, FRU Federal Well #33-13
- COC59491, FRU Federal Well #4-14
- COC59491, Federal Well #3-1

COMPLIANCE PLAN(S):

Compliance Schedule

Compliance will be conducted during the road construction phase and drilling phase to insure that all terms and conditions specified in the leases and the approved APDs and Sundry Notices are followed. In the event a producing well is established, periodic inspections as identified through the Inspection and Enforcement Strategy and independent well observations will be conducted. File inspections will include a review of all required reports and the Monthly Report of Operations will be evaluated for accuracy.

Monitoring Plan

The well locations and access roads will be monitored during the term of the lease for compliance with pertinent Regulations, Onshore Orders, Notices to Lessees, or subsequent COAs until final abandonment is granted; monitoring will help determine the effectiveness of mitigation and document the need for additional mitigation measures.

Assignment of Responsibility

Responsibility for implementation of the compliance schedule and monitoring plan will be assigned to the Fluid Mineral staff in the Little Snake Field Office. The primary inspector will be the Petroleum Engineering Technician, but the Petroleum Engineer, Natural Resource Specialist, Realty Specialist, and Land Law Examiner will also be involved.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEAL:

This decision is effective upon the date the decision or approval is signed by the authorized officer. Under regulations addressed in 43 CFR Subpart 3165, any party adversely affected has the right to appeal this decision. An informal review of the technical or procedural aspects of the decision may be requested of this office before initiating a formal review request. You have the right to request a State Director review of this decision. You must request a State Director review prior to filing an appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) (43CFR 3165.4).

If you elect to request a State Director Review, the request must be received by the BLM Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, no later than 20 business days after the date the decision was received or considered to have been received by the proponent. The request must include all supporting documentation unless a request is made for an extension of the filing of supporting documentation. For good cause, such extensions may be granted. You also have the right to appeal the decision issued by the State Director to the IBLA.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Shawn Wiser, Natural Resource Specialist, Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, CO 81625, phone (970) 826-5086.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:


Wendy Reynolds, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

10/22/2013