

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2465 South Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, CO 81403**

**Decision Record**

**(DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2014-0028 CX)**

**PROJECT NAME:** Extension of Suspension of Operations and Production of Oil and Gas Leases

**DECISION:** It is my decision to approve the request to extend the suspension of operations on leases COC-65523, COC-65524, COC-65525 and COC-65526 pursuant to provisions of 43 CFR 3103.4-4 and subject to the following terms of the suspension.

This suspension for the leases will expire when any one of the following conditions is met:

1. The first day of the month approved drilling operations commence on any lease within the Somerset Unit.
2. The first day of the month that we return the APDs as unapproved.
3. The first day of the month the Somerset Unit is terminated.
4. May 1, 2016

**RATIONALE:**

A case file review finds that the subject leases are committed the Somerset Unit. The BLM has received two Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) upon USFS lands within the unit, which are also included in a Master Development Plan submitted to BLM and USFS in 2009. By letter dated April 16, 2014, the USFS Paonia Ranger District Office indicates that due to roadless issues and the USFS regional review process, they anticipate it will be at least 24 months before a decision in compliance with NEPA would be finalized.

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, B.4. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

**COMPLIANCE WITH MAJOR LAWS and CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLAN:**

The decision is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policy, including the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan Record of Decision

1989, and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest Plan: Oil and Gas Leasing Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision 1993.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES:

Any adversely affected party who contests a decision of the authorized officer may request an administrative review before the State Director. Such requests, including all supporting documentation, shall be filed with the State Director within twenty (20) business days of receipt of the notice. Upon request and showing good cause, an extension for submitting supporting data may be granted by the State Director. Requests for administrative review should be sent to:

State Director (CO-922)  
Bureau of Land Management  
Colorado State Office  
2850 Youngfield St.  
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

NAME OF PREPARER: Thane Stranathan

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: *Barbara Sharrow* DATE: May 20, 2014

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL *Barbara Sharrow*  
Barbara Sharrow  
Field Manager  
Uncompahgre Field Office

DATE SIGNED 5-22-14