U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641

Section 390
Categorical Exclusion for
Oil and Gas Development

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0012-CX (390)

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-64814 (lease)

PROJECT NAME: Encana SG L27 496 frac pad expansion (SG L27 496)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T4S, R96W, NWSW Section 27

APPLICANT: Encana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The proposed project is located entirely on Encana private surface. A pad expansion (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0118-CX (390)) was approved October 28, 2013 of the original approval in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0035-EA (EnCana Oil and Gas Master Development Plan (MDP)) for the SG E34 496, SG L27 796 (Figure 1) and SG F22 496 approved on June 7, 2013.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Encana proposes to expand the SG L27 496 wellpad by approximately 0.90 acres in the frac pad area (Figure 2). The frac pad is requested to be expanded in order to operate safely while also allowing for necessary space for completions equipment. A new wellpad configuration has been submitted that shows the requested change to the approved layout (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0118-CX (390)). During pad expansion (construction) of approved layout, the additional acreage will be added to the wellpad.

Decision to be Made: The BLM will decide whether or not to approve the SG L27 496 wellpad expansion, and if so, under what conditions.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

> Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).
>
> Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-5

Decision Language: "Make Federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values."

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) prescribed five categorical exclusions (CX) for activities whose purpose is for the exploration of oil or gas.

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act, #1: *"Individual surface disturbances of less than five acres so long as the total surface disturbance on the lease is not greater than 150 acres and site-specific analysis in a document prepared pursuant to the NEPA has been previously completed."*

Documentation
The BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) provides specific instructions for using this CX.

1) Is surface disturbance associated with the Proposed Action less than five acres?
The Proposed Action is estimated at 0.90 acres of new disturbance.

2) *Is there less than 150 acres of surface disturbance, including the Proposed Action, on the entire leasehold?*
Aerial photo review using GIS conducted on August 26, 2013 showed an estimated 26.2 acres of surface disturbance on surface lease COC-068711 (SG L27 496 wellpad surface location). This estimate includes the 15.90 acres of total disturbance (existing and approved expansion) for the existing SG L27 496 wellpad and associated facilities approved in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0035-EA, and 0.50 acres of disturbance approved in DOI-BlM-CO-110-2013-0118-CX (390). The recently approved DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0118-CX (390) expanded the pad by 0.50 acres bringing the pad size to 16.4 acres this would lead to an estimate of 26.7 acres of disturbance for the lease.

3) *Is the Proposed Action within the boundaries of an area included in a site-specific NEPA document? (The NEPA document must have analyzed the exploration and/or development of oil and gas (not just leasing) and the action/activity being considered must be within the boundaries of the area analyzed in the environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The NEPA document need not have addressed the specific permit or application being considered.)*
The Proposed Action is within the boundaries of DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0035-EA. This NEPA document was approved on June 7, 2013.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on November 5, 2013. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists

resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Wolfe	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	11/6/2013
Michael Wolfe	Archaeologist	Paleontological Resources	11/6/2013
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	11/5/2013
Heather Woodruff	Range Management Specialist/Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	11/6/2013

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The proposed expansion of the well pad has been inventoried at the Class III level (Conner and Davenport 2011). No cultural resources are located within the project area; therefore the Proposed Action will have no effect to historic properties.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute Tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Paleontological Resources: The proposed well pad expansion is located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation which the BLM has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation. Formations that are classified as a PFYC 5 are formations that are generally known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil remains. If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock there is a potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossils. Since the surface is private property the BLM recommends and encourages the mitigation listed below but cannot require it.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no wildlife related concerns or issues associated with the Proposed Action. Impacts to special status animal species, particularly greater sage-grouse, were adequately addressed in the original document (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0035-EA). The proposed expansion is not expected to have any additional impacts to sage-grouse or important sage-grouse habitat.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There are no special status plant species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Conner, Carl E. And Barbara J. Davenport
2011 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report Twenty Proposed Well Locations And Related Linear Routes In The Double Willow Unit (D31-495, L16-496, I17-496, P17-496, B19-496, J20-496, C22-496, F22-496, N23-496, K24-496, L24-496, M24-496, P24-496, F26-496, I26-496, K27-496, L27-496, M27-496, E34-496, M34-496)

in Garfield And Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado For Encana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado (BLM 12-11-01; MC.LM.NR262).

MITIGATION:

The following mitigation is carried forward from DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0035-EA and applies to this proposal:

1. To reduce erosion adjacent to roads and protect water quality in downstream public lands by maintaining the drainage features of the access roads, access roads will be surfaced with six inches of road base and/or gravel. Maintenance will include restoring the travel surface shape, road surfacing to maintaining an effective all-weather surface during drilling and production of the wells.

2. Stockpiled topsoil and spoil piles should be separated and clearly labeled to prevent mixing during reclamation efforts.

3. Woody material should not be included within the topsoil piles, but should be piled separately in a manner that avoids windrowing and large piles of material.

4. Where it is apparent that livestock use will hamper reclamation efforts of pads and pipeline areas in terms of vegetation establishment it is recommended to build fences around reclaimed areas. Appropriate pass-through areas should be provided in pipeline fences to allow livestock and wildlife to traverse through the general area. Fences should be maintained by Encana and upon achieving reclamation success fences should be removed.

5. The reclamation success criteria should result in a minimum cover and composition of 80 percent of the Desired Plant Community (as defined by the ecological site, in an early seral state) or in relation to the seed mix applied within three growing seasons after the application of seed. This community should be capable of persisting on the site without intervention and allow for successional processes consistent with achieving the seral stage on the site prior to surface disturbance. Reclamation achievement should be evaluated using the Public Land Health Standards that include Indicators of Rangeland Health.

6. The operator should eliminate any noxious plants before seed production occurs. The operator should clean all off-road equipment to remove seed and soil prior to commencing operations within the project area.

7. In order to minimize the potential for invasion of noxious and invasive species, the operator should attain sufficient cover of native reclamation species (similar to that of nearby undisturbed native plant communities in a healthy early-seral state).

8. Vehicle access associated with construction of and development on the F22, E34, and L27 locations, including access roads and pipelines, will not be allowed on the Barnes Ridge road except in the case of emergency.

9. The applicant will make efforts to muffle and redirect noise emanating from on-site compression facilities (if used) in a manner that would substantially reduce noise-reception from occupied sage-grouse habitats on adjacent ridgelines (for example, using heavy side-slope vegetation and distance to attenuate noise and considering prevailing winds to align residual transmission down-canyon for F22, downwards NNE into canyon for E34/L27).

10. The applicant will use the lowest intensity lights that safety requirements will allow and make efforts to shield fixtures to reduce the intensity of light visible from adjacent ridgeline habitats.

11. BLM recommends that the interim and final reclamation seed mix for this project refrain from the use of deciduous shrubs (i.e., Utah serviceberry, Wood's rose, and snowberry). Optional forb components that best meet the nutritional demands of grouse broods should be considered a priority, including sulphur flower, Utah sweetvetch, and yarrow. Due to general absence or tendency to naturally recolonize disturbed sites in the project locale, the use of lupine and, especially, white sage should be avoided.

12. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.

13. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the Authorizing Official (AO). The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

14. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the permittee must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the permittee must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

15. BLM recommends the operator paint all aboveground facilities Juniper Green from the BLM Standards Environmental Color Chart CC-001: June 2008.

16. Comply with all Federal, State and/or local laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to onshore orders and notices to lessees, addressing the emission of and/or the handling, use, and release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment. All spills or leakages of oil, gas, produced water, toxic liquids or waste materials, blowouts, fires, shall be reported by the operator in accordance with the regulations and as prescribed in applicable orders or notices.

17. All substances that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment shall be stored in appropriate containers. Fluids that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, including but not limited to produced water shall be stored in appropriate containers and in secondary containment systems at 110% of the largest vessel's capacity. Secondary fluid containment systems, including but not limited to tank batteries shall be lined with a minimum 24 mil impermeable liner.

18. Construction sites and all facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.

19. As a reasonable and prudent lessee/operator in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will report all emissions or releases that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of a substance's status as exempt or nonexempt and regardless of fault, to the BLM WRFO (970) 878-3800.

20. The operator should coordinate with the livestock grazing lessee (Piceance Creek Ranch) a minimum of 72 hours prior to commencing construction activities associated with this permit. Livestock grazing permittee contact information may be found at www.blm.gov/ras/ or by contacting the WRFO Range staff (970-878-3800). The operator should provide the grazing lessee the location, nature, and extent of the anticipated activity to be completed.

21. Because the proposed well locations are on fee surface the BLM can, in the interest of science, recommend, but not require, the mitigation below. Any fossils recovered would remain the property of the landowner unless donated to a museum or university.

22. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.

23. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the operator or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site,

immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

24. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring of construction, production, and post-production activities will be conducted by White River Field Office staff during construction of the Encana frac pad expansion (SG L27 496) and during the life of the wellpad. Specific mitigation carried forward from DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0035-EA and developed in the associated Categorical Exclusion and the lease terms and conditions will be followed. The Operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

NAME OF PREPARER: Ryan Snyder

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA
The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: James R Roberts
Acting Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 11/13/2013

ATTACHMENTS:
Figure 1 – Area Approved DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0035-EA
Figure 2 – Well Site Layout Proposal (Expansion)

Figure 1 – Area Approved DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0035-EA

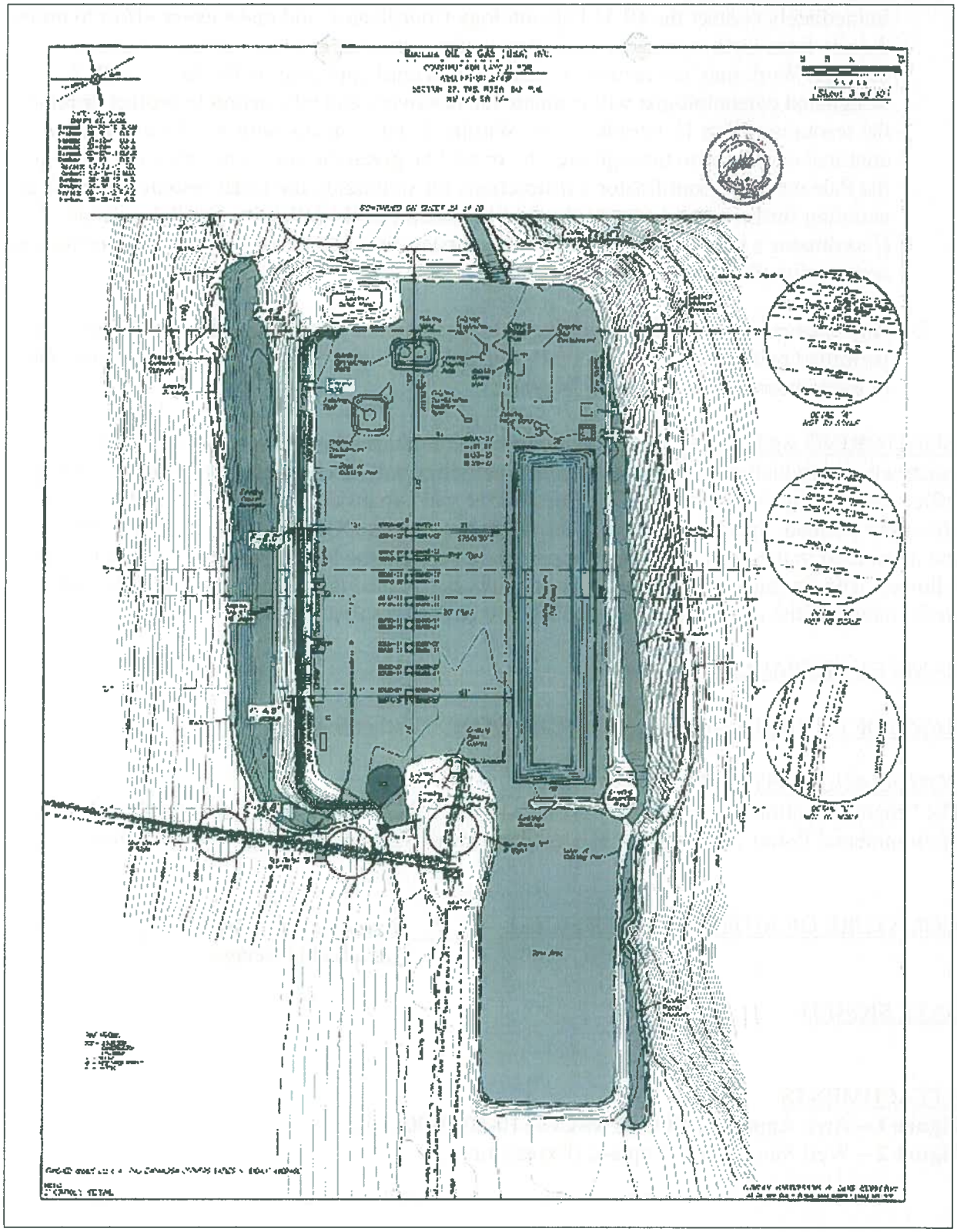
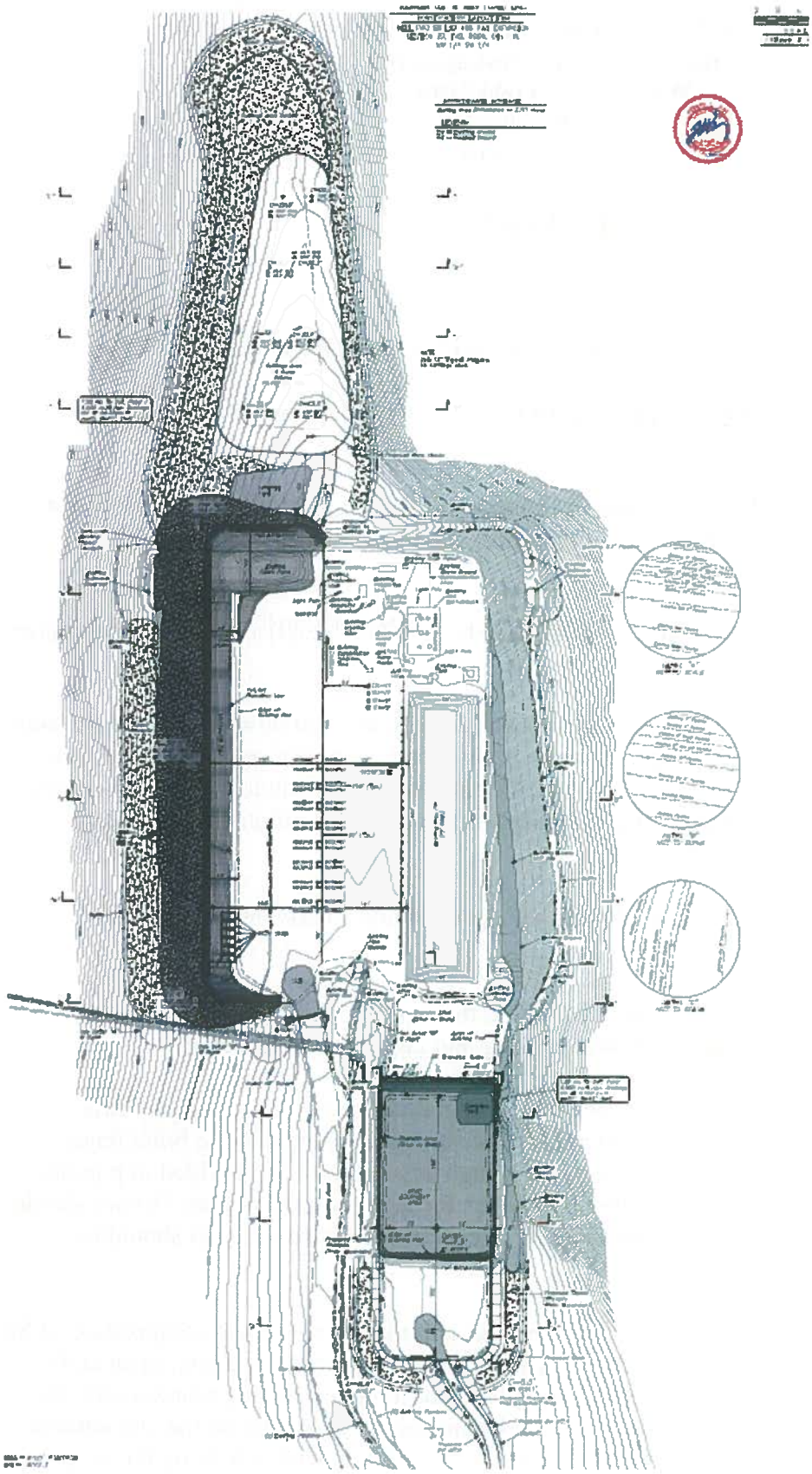


Figure 2 – Well Site Layout Proposal (Expansion)



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DECISION

PROJECT NAME: Encana SG L27 496 frac pad expansion (SG L27 496)

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0012-CX (390)

DECISION
It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0012-CX (390), authorizing the expansion of the Encana SG L27 496 frac pad.

Mitigation Measures
The following mitigation is carried forward from DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0035-EA and applies to this proposal:

1. To reduce erosion adjacent to roads and protect water quality in downstream public lands by maintaining the drainage features of the access roads, access roads will be surfaced with six inches of road base and/or gravel. Maintenance will include restoring the travel surface shape, road surfacing to maintaining an effective all-weather surface during drilling and production of the wells.

2. Stockpiled topsoil and spoil piles should be separated and clearly labeled to prevent mixing during reclamation efforts.

3. Woody material should not be included within the topsoil piles, but should be piled separately in a manner that avoids windrowing and large piles of material.

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stage on the site prior to surface disturbance. Reclamation achievement should be evaluated using the Public Land Health Standards that include Indicators of Rangeland Health.

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9. The applicant will make efforts to muffle and redirect noise emanating from on-site compression facilities (if used) in a manner that would substantially reduce noise-reception from occupied sage-grouse habitats on adjacent ridgelines (for example, using heavy side-slope vegetation and distance to attenuate noise and considering prevailing winds to align residual transmission down-canyon for F22, downwards NNE into canyon for E34/L27).

10. The applicant will use the lowest intensity lights that safety requirements will allow and make efforts to shield fixtures to reduce the intensity of light visible from adjacent ridgeline habitats.

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applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

14. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the permittee must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the permittee must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

15. BLM recommends the operator paint all aboveground facilities Juniper Green from the BLM Standards Environmental Color Chart CC-001: June 2008.

16. Comply with all Federal, State and/or local laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to onshore orders and notices to lessees, addressing the emission of and/or the handling, use, and release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment. All spills or leakages of oil, gas, produced water, toxic liquids or waste materials, blowouts, fires, shall be reported by the operator in accordance with the regulations and as prescribed in applicable orders or notices.

17. All substances that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment shall be stored in appropriate containers. Fluids that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, including but not limited to produced water shall be stored in appropriate containers and in secondary containment systems at 110% of the largest vessel's capacity. Secondary fluid containment systems, including but not limited to tank batteries shall be lined with a minimum 24 mil impermeable liner.

18. Construction sites and all facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.

19. As a reasonable and prudent lessee/operator in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will report all emissions or releases that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of a substance's status as exempt or nonexempt and regardless of fault, to the BLM WRFO (970) 878-3800.

20. The operator should coordinate with the livestock grazing lessee (Piceance Creek Ranch) a minimum of 72 hours prior to commencing construction activities associated with this permit. Livestock grazing permittee contact information may be found at www.blm.gov/ras/ or by contacting the WRFO Range staff (970-878-3800). The operator should provide the grazing lessee the location, nature, and extent of the anticipated activity to be completed.

21. Because the proposed well locations are on fee surface the BLM can, in the interest of science, recommend, but not require, the mitigation below. Any fossils recovered would remain the property of the landowner unless donated to a museum or university.

22. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.

23. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the operator or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

24. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.

In addition, the following mitigation applies to this proposal:

25. In order to monitor activity, reclamation, and potential impacts to wildlife, the BLM WRFO requires notification of the following activities to the designated Natural Resource Specialist/Realty Specialist:

Activity	**Timeframe**	**Method**
Construction	24 hours prior	Sundry Notice and either Email or Phone
Reclamation		Email or Phone

26. In order to track reclamation of actions related to the development of Federal mineral resources, the operator shall provide the *designated Natural Resource Specialist (NRS)* with geospatial data in a format compatible with the WRFO's geographic information system (GIS) (i.e., point or polygon features). These data will be used to accurately locate and identify all geographic as-built (i.e., constructed and design implemented) features associated with this project.
    a) These data must be submitted within 60 days of construction completion. If the operator is unable to submit the required information within the specified time, the operator must notify the designated NRS via email or phone, and provide justification supporting an extension of the required data submission time period.

b) GIS polygon features may include, but are not limited to: full well pad footprints (including all stormwater and design features), constructed access roads/widths, existing roads that were upgraded/widths, temporary use areas, and pipeline corridors.
c) Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. If possible, both (2) and (3) should be submitted for each as-built feature. Geospatial data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. Data may be submitted as: (1) an email attachment or (2) on a standard compact disk (CD) in compressed (WinZip only) or uncompressed format. All data shall include metadata, for each submitted layer, that conforms to the *Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata* from the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Questions will be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800. If the operator is unable to send the data electronically, the operator shall submit the data on compact disk(s) to the designated NRS.
d) Internal and external review of the reporting process and the adequacy of the associated information to meet established goals will be conducted on an on-going basis. New information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the request, as appropriate. Subsequent permit application processing may be dependent upon successful execution of this request, as stated above.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the White River Field Office (WRFO) interdisciplinary team on November 5, 2013. A copy of the completed CX will be posted on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act. This 0.90 acre expansion is for space to safely operate while allowing space for completion equipment. The CX (390) utilized here requires for the disturbance to be under 5 acres with less than 150 acres of disturbance on the lease, at 0.90 acres of new disturbance and less than 27 acres of disturbance on the lease it meets those requirements.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

State Director Review

Under regulations addressed in 43 CFR 3165.3(b), any adversely affected party that contests a decision of the Authorized Officer may request an administrative review, before the State Director, either with or without oral presentation. Such request, including all supporting documentation, shall be filed in writing with the BLM Colorado State Office at 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 within 20 business days of the date such decision was received or considered to have been received. Upon request and showing of good cause, an

extension may be granted by the State Director. Such review shall include all factors or circumstances relevant to the particular case.

Appeal

Any party who is adversely affected by the decision of the State Director after State Director review, under 43 CFR 3165.3(b), of a decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to the regulations set out in 43 CRF Part 4.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: _____

Acting Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 11/13/2013