

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SOUTHEASTERN STATES FIELD OFFICE  
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404  
Jackson, Mississippi 39206**

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM**

ES-020-2013-16-CX

Case/Project No.: LA-BLM-041903

PROJECT NAME: Slant Well Permit

**TECHNICAL REVIEW:**

(T)	Program	Reviewer	Signature	Date
	Air Quality	Brian Kennedy, Physical Scientist	<i>Randall A. Mills</i>	3/28/2013
	ACEC	Faye Winters, Wildlife Biologist	<i>Faye Winters</i>	3/27/2013
	Botanical including T & E Spp.	Faye Winters, Wildlife Biologist	<i>Faye Winters</i>	3/27/2013
	Communications (Dispatch)			
	Cultural/Paleontology	John M. Sullivan, Archeologist FOR	<i>John M. Sullivan</i>	3/28/13
	Energy Policy			
	Environmental Justice			
	Farmlands (Prime & Unique)	Brian Kennedy, Physical Scientist	<i>Randall A. Mills</i>	3/28/2013
	Fire Management			
	Floodplain	Brian Kennedy, Physical Scientist	<i>Randall A. Mills</i>	3/28/2013
	Hazardous Material	Brian Kennedy, Physical Scientist	<i>Randall A. Mills</i>	3/28/2013
	Invasive & Non-Native Species	Faye Winters, Wildlife Biologist		
	Lands/Realty	Vicki Craft, Realty Specialist	<i>Vicki Craft</i>	3-27-2013
	Land Law Examiner			
	Law Enforcement			
	Minerals	Bill Bagnall, Geologist	<i>Bill Bagnall</i>	3-28-2013
	Native American Religious Concerns	John M. Sullivan, Archeologist FOR	<i>John M. Sullivan</i>	3/28/13
	Operations			
	Range Management			
	Recreation			
	Soils	Brian Kennedy, Physical Scientist	<i>Randall A. Mills</i>	3/28/2013
	Surface Protection			
	Visual Resources			
	Water Rights			
	Water Quality (Surface & Ground)	Brian Kennedy, Physical Scientist	<i>Randall A. Mills</i>	3/28/2013
	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Brian Kennedy, Physical Scientist	<i>Randall A. Mills</i>	3/28/2013
	Wild & Scenic Rivers			
	Wilderness			
	Wild Horses/Burros			
	Wildlife including T & E Spp.	Faye Winters, Wildlife Biologist	<i>Faye Winters</i>	3/27/2013

Prepared by: *Will Howell*  
Will Howell, Petroleum Engineer

Date: 3/28/13

Reviewed by: *Gary Taylor*  
Gary Taylor, NEPA Coordinator

Date: 3/28/13

Reviewed by: *Randall A. Mills*  
Assistant Field Manager (AFM), Mineral Resources

Date: 3/28/2013

**Name of Project:** Slant Well Permit Approval

**Number:** EA-020-2013-16-CX

**Case File No.:** LA-BLM-041903

**Location (legal description):** T. 23 S., R. 31 E., Sec. 11, 12, and 13, M&B, Plaquemines Parish, LA

**Applicant:** Apache Corporation

**Project Description:** On March 21, 2013, Apache Corporation filed a letter of approval for a slant well permit in accordance with Sec. 5 of the Permit to Drill "Slant Wells" granted in September of 1956. The permit requires that no additional wells will be drilled by the permittee except with the approval of the Supervisor. Prior to the commencement of operations upon any well, permittee shall secure such approval and shall furnish the Supervisor with a statement specifying each such well by number and giving a particular description of the derrick location of each such well. Permittee shall also furnish the Supervisor with plats and surveys of each slant well showing the proposed location and course thereof, and a statement of the casing to be maintained therein, the diameter and length of each string of casing and the estimated depth at which each string will be landed. Said statements and plats shall be substantially accurate and shall be followed and observed with tolerance common to modern drilling procedures and practices. Well drilling/construction will be monitored and electric logs evaluated insuring federal minerals are isolated and not produced.

**Categorical Exclusion Reference:** Categorical Exclusion reference is 516 DM 11.5 E(13).

Amendments to existing rights-of-way as the upgrading of existing facilities which entail no additional disturbances outside the rights-of-way boundary.

**Required Stipulations:** Covered in the old Slant Well Permit of Sept., 1956.

**Compliance and Monitoring Responsibility:** Monitoring the well drilling and completion operations.

**Decision:**

BLM has determined that the proposal conforms to the land use plan, is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria, and that it will not involve any significant adverse environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review. The Proposed Action will have no effect on the President's Energy Policy and a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required. The proposed action will be implemented subject to the stipulations within the authorizing document.

Approved by: Bruce Dawson  
Bruce Dawson  
Southeastern States Field Office Manager

Date: 4/2/2013

<b>CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation</b>		
<b>The proposed categorical exclusion action will:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: There should be no significant impacts on public health or safety.		
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
Rationale: None of these resources are present.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: No highly controversial effects or unresolved conflicts would occur.		
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: There are no unique or unknown environmental risks.		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: No precedent would be established.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: There would be no cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
Rationale: No such properties would be affected.		
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
Rationale: There should be no impact on species listed or proposed for listing, or their habitat.		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
Rationale: No laws would be violated.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
Rationale: No disproportionate adverse effects would be expected.		
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
Rationale: There would be no effect on Indian sacred sites.		
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X
Rationale: This project will not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species due to implementation of standard preventative measures.		