

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FORM

ES-020-2013-08

PROJECT NAME: SINGER 11-14 #3 APD EA

TECHNICAL REVIEW:

X	Program	Reviewer	Signature	Date
	Lands/Realty			
X	Environmental Justice	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/7/13
	Wild Horse & Burro			
	Communications (Dispatch)			
X	Cultural/Paleontology	John Sullivan Archeologist	<i>[Signature]</i>	1/8/13
X	Native American Religious Concerns	John Sullivan Archeologist	<i>[Signature]</i>	1/8/13
	Wilderness			
	Farmlands (Prime & Unique)			
X	Recreation	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/7/13
X	Visual Resources	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/7/13
	Operations			
	Fire Management			
	Range Management			
	Law Enforcement			
	Land Law Examiner			
X	Energy Policy	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/9/13
X	Minerals	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/9/13
	ACEC			
X	Surface Protection	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/7/13
X	Hazardous Material	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/7/13



X	Soils	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/7/13
X	Air Quality	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/7/13
X	Water Quality (Surface & Ground)	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/7/13
	Water Rights			
X	Floodplain	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/7/13
X	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Brian Kennedy Physical Scientist	<i>Brian Kennedy</i>	1/7/13
	Wild & Scenic Rivers			
X	Invasive & Non-Native Spp.	Faye Winters Wildlife Biologist	<i>Faye Winters</i>	1/7/13
X	Botanical including T&E Spp.	Faye Winters Wildlife Biologist	<i>Faye Winters</i>	1/7/13
X	Wildlife including T&E Spp.	Faye Winters Wildlife Biologist	<i>Faye Winters</i>	1/7/13

Prepared by: *Brian Kennedy*
 Brian Kennedy
 Physical Scientist

Date: 1/7/13

Reviewed by: *Victoria P. Craft*
 for Gary Taylor
 NEPA Coordinator

Date: 1/8/13

Reviewed by: *Victoria P. Craft*
 Duane Winters
 Resource Supervisor

Date: 1/8/13

Reviewed by: *Bill Bagnall*
 Bill Bagnall
 Minerals Supervisor

Date: 1/8/13





**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Environmental Assessment
EA-020-2013-08**

SINGER 11-14 #3 APD EA

**Prepared by: Brian Kennedy, Physical Scientist
Date: December 10, 2012**







CH 1 – PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

Introduction

On November 2, 2012, Alpine Gas Operator, LLC submitted an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) on the SINGER 11-14 #3 well to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Southeastern States Field Office (SSFO). The proposed well location is approximately 12.5 miles northwest from Lumberton, Mississippi and located 0.4 miles off of Tatum Salt Dome Road. The APD for SINGER 11-14 #3 was submitted in accordance with Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 1 (43 CFR 3164), administered by the BLM. The well site is located on private property and will be a directionally drilled to the East into federally owned and leased oil and gas mineral rights. The leasing and development of federal oil and gas minerals is authorized by several statutes including: The Mineral Leasing Act, as amended and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 181), and The Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands, as amended (30 U.S.C. 351-359).

Need for the Proposed Action

An APD is a proposed action under BLM jurisdiction requiring federal approval for a permit to drill and as such must be reviewed for compliance with various statutes, laws and regulations including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

A federal oil and gas lease is a legal contract that grants exclusive rights to the lessee to drill for and remove all oil and gas from the lease with the right to build and maintain necessary improvements. The subject lease was issued by the BLM following a decision by the Authorized Officer to allow leasing of the oil and gas rights on the property. The leasing decision and leasing action represent a commitment to allow exploration and development of potential oil and gas resources on the property. Hence, the drilling activity on the lease constitutes a valid lease right and is needed in order to fulfill the purpose and intent of the lease.

Management Objectives of the Action

The desired outcome of the proposed action is the approval of Alpine Gas Operator, LLC's APD for the SINGER 11-14 #3 well. Approval of the APD from Alpine Gas Operator, LLC would allow drilling of a well for development of federal minerals prudently in order to stop the loss of royalties to the federal government due to drainage of neighboring private wells.

Land Use Plan Conformance

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) / Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Alabama and Mississippi was approved January 26, 2009. The Bureau of Land Management Southeastern States Field Office's RMP covers 305,640 acres of BLM-administered, non-USFS Federal Mineral Ownership (FMO) which addresses oil and gas leasing and permitting.

Applicable Regulatory Requirements and Required Coordination

Applicable Regulatory Requirements and Required Coordination include: The Mineral Leasing Act, as amended and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 181), The Mineral Leasing Act of 1947, as



amended (30 U.S.C. 351-359), Leasing Reform Act of 1987, 43 CFR 3162.3, 43 CFR 3162.5, Onshore Oil & Gas Order No. 1, Energy Policy Act of 2005, National Environmental Policy Act, 1969 (NEPA), Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), The National Historic Preservation Act, The American Indian Religious Freedom Act, The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, and/or other statutes and executive orders.

The following agencies/tribes were contacted for cultural compliance under Section 106:

- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Jena Band of Choctaw
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Coushatta Indian Tribe
- Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Kialagee Tribal Town
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town

Consultation completed by BLM staff:

- State Historic Preservation Office, Mississippi Department of Archives and History

The following BLM employees attended the onsite visit with Alpine Gas Operator, LLC (held October 2012) for proposed SINGER 11-14 #3 APD:

- (1) Brian Kennedy, SSFO Physical Scientist
- (2) John Sullivan, SSFO Archeologist

Decision(s) That Must Be Made

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has two decisions under consideration for the proposed action of approving the APD for well: SINGER 11-14 #3 submitted by Alpine Gas Operator, LLC. The "Proposed Action" and the "No Action" options are considered the only two reasonable alternatives under decision by BLM. No issues were raised during the scoping process and/or onsite inspection that would suggest or identify other alternatives for consideration. The No Action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action.

First and preferred decision for consideration is the approval of the APD for one well pad location in Lamar County, Mississippi submitted by Alpine Gas Operator, LLC. The preferred decision would allow the drilling of an oil well to protect federal mineral interests from being drained from nearby oil and gas wells. Approving the APD would give Alpine Gas Operator, LLC the permission to begin developing the federal minerals of MSES-50812 in return the U.S.



Government would be paid royalties for those minerals developed. The no action or second decision to consider would be to disapprove the APD submitted by Alpine Gas Operator, LLC. If the second decision was proven to be the appropriate and best course of action by BLM, the proposed well site submitted would not be recommended by BLM to Alpine Gas Operator, LLC for development or any future submittal of APDs for that location. Royalties would not be collected and drainage of federal minerals would continue take place from the neighboring private leases. This EA will discuss and review all SESFO NEPA elements taken under consideration to provide management with the best decision appropriate for all proposed actions. BLM's policy is to promote oil and gas development as long as it meets the guidelines and regulations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as other subsequent laws and policies passed by the U.S. Congress.

CH 2 – ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

Introduction

BLM will review an APD submitted by Alpine Gas Operator, LLC for one well pad location to drill for oil. Alpine Gas Operator, LLC submitted an APD to drill into MSES-50812 located in Lamar County, Mississippi within approximately 12.5 miles of Lumberton, Mississippi on private property.

APD Location

SINGER 11-14 #3 - 2135' FNL and 1048' FWL in Section 11, T. 2 N., R. 16 W.;
St. Stephens Meridian, Lamar County, Mississippi

Proposed Action (Preferred Option)

The proposed action is to approve the well pad location for the APD submitted by Alpine Gas Operator, LLC with approximately 4.47 acres of total surface disturbance for construction of a well pad, reserve pit, and access road. The company provided plats detailing both well pad designs and area of coverage. The proposed federal well will be drilled directionally to the East for oil development. Drilling plans for the well were submitted with the APD and will be reviewed by BLM as part of the approval process.

Construction

The specific plans for construction of the site are included in the Surface Use Program (SUP) of the APD. The SUP is incorporated by reference into this EA, is maintained in the appropriate well file at the BLM, Southeastern States Field Office, and is available for review.

SINGER 11-14 #2 well utilized a square-shaped well pad (400' X 400') approximately 3.67 acres of disturbance in size. The well pad area will be leveled for support of a drilling rig. A reserve pit will be constructed on the downhill side of the well pad for discharge of the drilling fluids. Access road right-of-way (ROW) dimensions are 30' X 906.1' with two turn-out spots



being 60' in width for approximately 0.8 acres in disturbance on private land across a wooded area. The pad's elevation is at $\pm 305'$. Other design features are included in the SUP.

Drilling

The specific plans for drilling operations are included in the Drilling Program (DP) of the APD. This program is incorporated by reference into this EA. The DP is maintained in the appropriate well file at the BLM, Southeastern States Field Office and is available for review. The SINGER 11-14 #3 well would be drilled to a depth of 13,200 feet total volume depth (TVD). The casing and cementing programs are reviewed by BLM and, if necessary, will be modified to meet BLM standards. BLM regulations require that the operator isolate freshwater-bearing strata and other usable safe drinking water formations containing 10,000 ppm or less of dissolved solids, and other mineral-bearing formations, and protect them from contamination (43 CFR 3162.5-2d). Surface casing would be placed below surface and cemented back to the surface to protect usable safe drinking water. The circulated mud, drilling fluids, and cuttings would be discharged into a reserve pit. Drill cuttings during air drilling will be deposited into the reserve pit.

The blowout prevention program has been reviewed by BLM for assurance that, in the event of a blowout, the well can be controlled. Alpine Gas Operator, LLC provided BLM the details of their production casing for the SINGER 11-14 #3 well. The production casing of the well is in accordance with BLM regulations/standards. Other design features pertaining to drilling are included in the DP.

Production Facilities

The SINGER 11-14 #3 well, if successful, would have the need to place production lines and equipment to produce the minerals extracted. Production and gathering lines are detailed in the facility diagram which is part of the APD and DP. Lines leaving the well pad will be laid in the well road's right-of-way (ROW). Any new facilities or lines, Alpine Gas Operator, LLC will have to submit them to BLM for approval by a Sundry Notice. Any new surface disturbance is subject to NEPA review. Production facilities will be reviewed by BLM as part of the APD approval process to ensure proper construction, usage, and management.

Reclamation

The reclamation plan applies to all disturbed areas following a dry hole or abandonment of the well and to all areas not needed for production of a producing well. The well will be plugged after completion and no limbs, trees, or tops will be placed in the reserve pit. Other aspects of the project relative to reclamation are addressed in the Surface Use Conditions of Approval (SUOCA) submitted by BLM. Upon final abandonment and reclamation, BLM will inspect the plugging operations completed by Alpine Gas Operator, LLC and inspect final reclamation of the site to ensure it has met BLM reclamation standards. Well site is located on private surface. A surface use agreement (SUA) is in place between the private landowner and Alpine Gas Operator, LLC. BLM will respect the private landowner's wishes of surface use in the SUA. If private landowner has no plans for final reclamation, BLM will propose that Alpine Gas Operator, LLC restore the well site to conditions prior to well construction for final reclamation



approval. Plugging and reclamation stages are subject to BLM's approval before well site can be released from Alpine Gas Operator, LLC's responsibility and liability.

No Action

The only other alternative to the two decisions being considered by BLM is "No Action". The "No Action" decision's result would be to not authorize the proposed SINGER 11-14 #3 APD submitted by Alpine Gas Operator, LLC to BLM. No revenues would be obtained by this action and potential drainage from private wells neighboring the federal lease could occur. The "No Action" alternative would potentially jeopardize BLM's policy to promote oil and gas development as long as it meets the guidelines and regulations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and other subsequent laws and policies passed by the U.S. Congress.

CH. 3 – DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

Based on review of the elements listed on the SSFO NEPA Form and consideration of the Purpose and Need statement prepared for this EA, the following elements will be addressed in this EA: Environmental Justice, Cultural/Paleontology, Native American Religious Concerns, Recreation, Visual Resources, Minerals, Energy Policy, Surface Protection, Hazardous Material, Soils, Air Quality, Floodplain, Water Quality, Wetlands/Riparian Zones, Invasive & Non-Native Spp., Botanical including T&E Spp., and Wildlife including T&E Spp.

Description of Project Area

The project area is within the Southern Pine Plains and Hills of the Southeastern Plains eco-region. Often called the Pine Hills or Piney Woods in Mississippi, the Southern Pine Plains and Hills eco-region extends across southern Mississippi and Alabama, covering what was once part of the longleaf pine belt. Today, almost all of the southern mixed forest and longleaf pine forests are gone, replaced mostly by slash and loblolly pine plantations. Agriculture and timber production are the primary industries of the area. The proposed well site and access road are located private property. The project site is just within a game reserve on its southern side which is used to raise exotic (non-native) deer species such as elk, red deer, fallow deer, and etc. The exotic wildlife raised here are for personal sport and/or paying hunters looking to hunt non-native deer species in Mississippi. Most of the project area had been fairly recently harvested of its timber and/or disturbed which caused a high presence of early-succession, herbaceous species and some young woody vegetation. Oil and gas development has been in the area for many years.



Environmental Justice

Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes ensure that individuals are not excluded from participation in, denied the benefit of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice directs that programs, policies, and activities not have a disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effect on minority and low-income populations.

Cultural Resources

The tract is privately owned and has been partially surveyed for cultural resources. The area has been determined to have a probability for sites which may be eligible for classification as Historic Properties (36 CFR 60). These sites, if present would have the potential to contribute to our knowledge of human utilization of and survival in the ever changing environment.

Native American Religious Concerns

Federally recognized Native American tribes and groups have been contacted about this proposed undertaking. Known sites of Native American religious activities have not been located. Portions of the area have been surveyed for cultural resources, along with other areas of the surrounding project tract. Religious sites or sites of cultural importance to Native Americans may be present.

Recreation/Visual/Noise Resources

Boating, ATV riding, fishing and hunting are the normal outdoor recreation for this area. Lamar County, Mississippi has abundant resources and land (private and government) available to accommodate these types of activities. However, access to these recreational resources can be limited due to remoteness or private property.

The visual resources found in the project area consist of wooded areas, cattle and chicken farms, small house structures, county roads, secondary roads, existing well pads, and small ponds/lakes. The existing visual resources in the immediate vicinity of the proposed actions have more of a rural appearance.

Existing sources of noise are limited to petroleum development activities, vehicular traffic on state highways, county roads and other existing secondary roads, and/or private landowners nearby.

Energy Policy/Minerals

As manager of more public land than any other Federal agency, the Bureau of Land Management has a key role in implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The BLM's management of 256 million surface acres and 700 million subsurface acres of mineral estate provides for multiple



uses of the land, including energy development. The SINGER 11-14 #3 APD looks to produce oils at a depth of 13,200 feet in Lamar County, Mississippi.

Wastes, Hazardous or Solid

During the on-site inspections, no waste site (hazardous or non-hazardous) being solid or liquid was found in the project area. The private property is utilized for timber production and recreational hunting. From the onsite, nothing in the surrounding area has had signs of being impacted from trash or other waste material.

Soils

The soil type associated with the project area according to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is McLaurin soil.

The McLaurin series consists of deep, well drained, moderately permeable soils. They formed in loamy marine or stream sediments. These are nearly level to sloping soils on uplands of the Southern Coastal Plain Major Land Resource Area. Slopes range from 0 to 8 percent. Solum thickness ranges from 60 inches to more than 80 inches. In some pedons a few ironstone fragments or chert gravel, or both make up less than 10 percent of the volume are present in some pedons. Reaction is strongly acid to very strongly acid throughout, except where the surface layers have been limed. The climate is warm and humid. The mean annual temperature is 64 degrees Fahrenheit and the mean annual precipitation is 61 inches near the type location. Cotton, corn, soybeans, and small grains are the principal crops. Many areas are used for pasture and woodland. Principal vegetation of uncleared areas is longleaf, slash, loblolly, and shortleaf pines, or mixed hardwoods and pines with an understory of shrubs and grasses.

Air Quality

The Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended, requires the establishment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Both primary and secondary standards are now in effect. Primary standards define levels of air quality that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) judges to be necessary, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect the public health. Secondary standards define levels of air quality that the Administrator of the EPA judges to be necessary to protect the public from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant. The NAAQS pollutants are monitored in Mississippi by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). These include carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, total suspended particulate, particulate matter less than 10 microns, and lead. The area of the proposed well is within standard ranges for air quality. No emissions are present on said property that would be outside the parameters of federal and/or state air emission and quality standards.



Water Quality, Surface/Ground

Surface Water Quality

Well site is approximately 12 miles to the east of the Pearl River. The project area is located in the Pearl River Basin in Lamar County, Mississippi. The Pearl River Basin is located in east-central and southwest Mississippi and in the southeastern part of Louisiana, and drains an area of about 8,000 square miles. The river extends from its headwaters in Neshoba County through the Jackson metropolitan area and empties into the Mississippi Sound. Major water-bodies include the Pearl, Yockanookany, Strong, and Bogue Chitto Rivers.

Ground Water Quality

Almost all of the surficial aquifers supply water of good to very good quality, ranging from calcium-bicarbonate to sodium-bicarbonate water types. Areas of poor water quality can result from both natural and anthropogenic sources. Natural sources of contamination are typically regional in extent and are related to water-rock interactions. Anthropogenic impacts include both point and nonpoint sources of contamination. Nonpoint sources can result in large areas of impact, although contaminant concentrations typically are significantly lower than point sources, and the contaminants typically represent soluble, non-reactive species. Point sources of contamination often result in elevated levels of contaminants that exceed federal maximum contaminant levels; however, the extent of contamination normally is confined to a small area, with little to no offsite migration or impact on receptors.

Wetlands/Riparian Areas/Floodplains

The surroundings of the well site are of oil and gas production, farmland, livestock ranching, and timber production. Drainage is usually north to south. Well site area is on rolling hill topography. Location is not within a wetland or floodplain area.

Invasive/Exotic Species

There are a number of non-native species that are considered invasive in Mississippi. The following provides a list of some of the more common invasive species that can be found in Mississippi:

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Alligator weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>
Japanese climbing fern	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>
Chinaberry	<i>Melia azedarach</i>
Johnson grass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Brazilian verain	<i>Verbena brasiliensis</i>
Cogon grass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>
Chinese tallow tree	<i>Triadica sebifera</i>
Common salvinia	<i>Salvinia minima</i>
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
Water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>



There were large patches of invasive cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrical*) present throughout the site.

Special Status Species

Four species are listed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2012 List of Federally Threatened and Endangered Species in Lamar County, Mississippi: red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) listed as endangered, Louisiana black bear (*Ursus a. luteolus*) listed as threatened, gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) listed as threatened, and black pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus spp. lodingi*) listed as a candidate for federal listing. Field work to assess habitat and conduct inventories was conducted on October 3, 2012.

Red-cockaded woodpecker is an endemic to open, mature and old growth pine ecosystems in the southeastern United States. These birds are non-migratory, cooperative breeders that exploit live pines for both roosting and breeding cavities. As per the approved survey protocols foraging habitat includes pines at least 30 years old and suitable nesting habitat contains pine trees at least 90 years old within 0.5 miles of suitable foraging habitat. The project area is dominated by early successional species and young pine plantation with a small area of mature hardwood species. The site does not provide suitable foraging or nesting habitat for red-cockaded woodpecker. In addition, the surrounding land use is similar and no suitable nesting or foraging habitat was identified.

The black bear typically inhabits bottomland hardwood communities, but can use areas associated with salt domes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Recovery Plan for the Louisiana black bear states that, "although black bears originally occurred throughout the lower southeastern coastal plain, bear densities were probably historically greater within bottomland hardwood and other forested communities where hard and soft mast production was higher than in the fire-maintained, pine-dominated communities." Black bear are unlikely to utilize the project site because of the lack of suitable habitat.

The black pine snake is typically found in upland longleaf pine forests. They require sandy, well-drained soils with an overstory of longleaf pine, and fire suppressed midstory with dense herbaceous ground cover. Lamar County is in the range of this species, but black pine snakes have not been recorded in Lamar County since 1979 and the bulk of the currently occupied habitat is east of Lamar County. The habitat at the project site is unfavorable for this species. The project site lies in an area that is fragmented by roads, recent cutovers, and pine plantations intensely managed for silvicultural purposes. The presence of unfavorable habitat reduces possibility of presence of one or more individuals of this species. The surrounding area is unlikely a source of immigrant individuals because of its similar unfavorable characteristics and the small home range of the black pine snake.

Lamar County is within the current range of the gopher tortoise. Preferred habitat for the species includes well-drained sandy soils, abundant herbaceous ground cover, and a generally open canopy with sparse shrub cover. The McLaurin soils are considered suitable for gopher tortoise. Current land use on the project site is recreational and silvicultural. Pine stands are densely planted with little light hitting the forest floor. Dense scrub shrub habitat is found on the south



portion of the pad site. No existing active gopher tortoise burrows or suitable habitat was found at the time of the site visit. Nearby high fence enclosures (approximately 10 feet tall and trenched at base) likely keeps individuals from immigrating into the project site.

Migratory Bird Species of Concern

No migratory bird species of concern are known to occur on the project area.

Wildlife and Vegetation

Plant communities at the proposed project site are dominated by early successional species. Most of the project area has been recently harvested of timber, and the disturbance has caused a high presence of early successional herbaceous species along with some young woody vegetation. A small portion of the project falls on a cultivated maintained monoculture of dallisgrass (*Paspalum dilatatum*). The majority of the young woody vegetation found on the project site was loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), common pear (*Pyrus communis*), eastern baccharis (*Baccharis halimifolia*), and some longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*). The herbaceous vegetation present at the site is comprised mostly of blackberry (*Rubus argutus*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and hairy leafcup (*Smallanthus uvedalius*).

Wildlife is likely limited but species expected to occur in the surrounding area includes: eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), northern raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), nine-banded armadillo (*Dasyurus novemcinctus*), opossum (*Didelphus virginia*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), red-shouldered hawk (*B. lineatus*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), five-lined skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*), and green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*). The well pad is within a game preserve that is utilized for farming exotic red deer, elk, and fallow deer. Perimeter fencing excludes native white-tailed deer from the game preserve.

Ch. 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Introduction

This chapter assesses potential environmental consequences associated with direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives.

Based on review of the elements listed on the SSFO NEPA Form and consideration of the Purpose and Need statement prepared for this EA, the following elements will be addressed in this EA: Environmental Justice, Cultural/Paleontology, Native American Religious Concerns, Recreation, Visual Resources, Energy Policy, Minerals, Surface Protection, Hazardous Material, Soils, Air Quality, Water Quality, Floodplain, Wetlands/Riparian Zones, Invasive & Non-Native Spp., Botanical including T&E Spp., and Wildlife including T&E Spp.



Environmental Justice

No adverse human health and environmental effects will be anticipated that would encompass or affect minority and low-income populations in the area surrounding area of the well site discussed in this EA.

Cultural Resources:

If no cultural resource surveys are conducted, direct and indirect impacts may occur when ground disturbing activities begin. Direct impacts are those such as completely destroying a site by bulldozing the area and workers picking up artifacts. Indirect impacts are those such as erosion or compaction of the soil on the site. However, if sites are located and recorded before ground disturbance begins, these impacts can be avoided or mitigated.

Native American Religious Concerns:

If no cultural resource surveys are conducted, direct and indirect impacts may occur when ground disturbing activities begin. Direct impacts are those such as completely destroying a site by bulldozing the area and workers picking up artifacts. Indirect impacts are those such as erosion or compaction of the soil on the site. However, if sites are located and recorded before ground disturbance begins, these impacts can be avoided or mitigated.

Recreation/Visual/Noise Resources

The proposed well site is within a game preserve used for recreational hunting of exotic deer species. It is not near areas used for public recreational purposes other than hunting on the private landowner's property, nor is the well site visible from any residences. Residences in the area are accustomed to seeing oil and gas activity with no known objections by BLM of such activity. Because hunting is regulated by the state of Mississippi, and wild game in Lamar County is plentiful, hunting activities occur only at certain times of the year for each game species by state law. Hunting prohibitions for the game preserve due to the well site would be a short-term, direct impact while drilling but long-term impacts are not expected. Cumulative impacts to native hunting wild game in this area should not occur because of the well pad's location being just within the game preserve.

Noise generation from well operations, would be associated with vehicle movements and the operation of production equipment. Impacts from noise on people and wildlife species inhabiting the areas are expected to be minimal and of occasional, short duration in case of required maintenance onsite.

Energy Policy/Minerals

Approving Alpine Gas Operator, LLC's well would be keeping in line with BLM's responsibility for energy development and management. Approving the APD will ensure that the U.S. government is not drained from private drilling in the surrounding area and that production of natural gas provides the U.S. government with appropriate royalties. Energy Policy Act of 2005



– Sets forth an energy research and development program covering: (1) energy efficiency; (2) renewable energy; (3) oil and gas; (4) coal; (5) Indian energy; (6) nuclear matters and security; (7) vehicles and motor fuels, including ethanol; (8) hydrogen; (9) electricity; (10) energy tax incentives; (11) hydropower and geothermal energy; and (12) climate change technology.

Title III: Oil and Gas

Subtitle B: Natural Gas

(Sec. 313) Designates FERC as the lead agency for coordinating federal permits and other authorizations and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Directs FERC to establish a schedule for all federal authorizations.

Subtitle C: Production

(Sec. 322) Amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to exclude from the definition of underground injection the underground injection of fluids or propping agents (other than diesel fuels) pursuant to hydraulic fracturing operations related to oil or gas, or geothermal production activities.

Subtitle F: Access to Federal Lands

(Sec. 361) Requires the Secretary of the Interior to perform an internal review of current federal onshore oil and gas leasing and permitting practices.

(Sec. 364) Amends the Energy Act of 2000 to revise the requirement that the Secretary of the Interior, when inventorying all onshore federal lands, identify impediments or restrictions upon oil and gas development.

(Sec. 366) Amends the Mineral Leasing Act to set deadlines for an expedited permit application process.

(Sec. 368) Prescribes guidelines governing energy right-of-way corridors on federal land. Directs the Secretaries of Agriculture, of Commerce, of Defense, of Energy, and of the Interior (the Secretaries), in consultation with FERC, states, tribal or local government entities, affected utility industries, and other interested persons, are directed to consult with each other and to: (1) designate corridors for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities on federal land in the 11 contiguous Western States; (2) incorporate the designated corridors into the relevant energy land use and resource management or equivalent plans; and (3) ensure that additional corridors are promptly identified and designated.

(Sec. 371) Amends the Mineral Leasing Act to cite conditions for the reinstatement of oil and gas leases terminated for certain failure to pay rentals.

Subtitle G: Miscellaneous

(Sec. 390) States that action by the Secretary of the Interior in managing the public lands, or the Secretary of Agriculture in managing National Forest System Lands, with respect to certain oil or gas drilling related activities shall be subject to rebuttable presumption that the use of a categorical exclusion under NEPA would apply if the activity is conducted pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act for the purpose of exploration or development of oil or gas.



Wastes, Hazardous or Solid

With approval of the APD , the operations for drilling would typically generate the following wastes; (a) discharge of drilling fluids and cuttings into the reserve pits, (b) waste generated from used lubrication oils and hydraulic fluids, some of which may be characteristic of, or listed as, hazardous waste, and (c) service company wastes as well as some general trash. Certain wastes unique to the exploration, development, or production of crude oil and natural gas have been exempted from federal regulation as hazardous waste under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976. The exempt waste must be intrinsic to exploration, development, or production activities and not generated as a part of a transportation or manufacturing operation. The drilling fluids, drill cuttings, and the produced waters are classified as a RCRA exempt waste, and the proposed action would not introduce any hazardous substance into the environment, if they are managed and disposed of properly under federal and state waste management regulations and guidelines. No cumulative impacts are anticipated to occur.

Soils

The action of constructing a well pad would have a direct, adverse impact on soils. These impacts would be limited to those areas where vegetation is removed and construction occurs. The impacts would be of two types: (1) physical removal, leveling and mixing of surface soils and (2) soil compaction. The first impact would be caused by site preparation for construction of the well pad, related structures, road construction, flow line construction, and wind and water erosion. This would cause a mixing of soil horizons and cause a short-term loss of soil productivity. The second impact, soil compaction, would be caused by vehicle and machinery travel. Compaction decreases air and water infiltration into the soil profile thus reducing soil productivity. Prompt cultivation and re-vegetation will be specified in BLM Surface Use Conditions of Approval (SUCOA) to minimize the loss of soil productivity. This would also prevent an increase of siltation into drainages or streams from run-off. No cumulative impacts would be anticipated to result from this action.

Air Quality

Air quality would be slightly affected locally by exploration, development and abandonment. Dust created during road and well site construction would increase suspended particulates in the air. However, this impact would be localized to the immediate vicinity of the well sites and flow line construction and would be of short duration. Dust from traffic and smoke and other emissions from vehicles and stationary engines used in drilling operations and flow line construction could increase air pollutants but again, these impacts would be localized and of short duration. Cumulative impacts to air quality should not occur with approval of this action.

Wetlands/Riparian Areas/Floodplains:

Any disturbances from drilling activities would avoid contamination and sedimentation into surrounding drains, creeks, streams, rivers, wetlands and/or springs. No drains or creeks will be directly impacted by construction of the proposed well pad.



Water Quality, Surface/Ground:

Waste fluids associated with oil and gas operations could potentially have an adverse impact on surface and ground waters if allowed to leach into surface and ground water, possibly degrading water quality. Alpine Gas Operating, LLC's drilling plan details that any waste fluids will be dumped into the reserve pit located on the drilling plan. Those fluids will be drained and disposed at a treatment facility. No cumulative impacts are anticipated as a result of this action.

Invasive/Exotic Species

Surface disturbances can result in increased occurrence of invasive and exotic species. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides guidelines for mulching, preparation, and planting of vegetation during site restoration (NRCS 1999). Native species are preferred for site restoration. Because of unreliable and/or slow germination and establishment rates of native species, however, site restoration typically is accomplished with a mixture of native and nonnative species. The nonnative species are quickly established to provide erosion control and wildlife support and are slowly replaced by native species (both by species that have been planted and by those recruited from the surrounding area over time).

Alpine Gas Operator, LLC would apply BLM's recommended use of native grasses for re-vegetation efforts and post-construction monitoring for invasive species. The spread of cogongrass within the project site and the potential to spread seed beyond the area could occur through soil or debris removed from the site, or on earth moving equipment brought onto the site for construction. Because of the extent of the infestation on and near the proposed well pad it is not feasible to eradicate cogongrass from the project site. The goal would be to ensure that BLM approved actions do not facilitate the spread of cogongrass on or off the site. This would require that all excavated dirt remain on site and that all construction vehicles be cleaned and washed prior to leaving the work site. Future mowing equipment used at the site would also need to be cleaned before leaving the site to reduce the chance of spreading this noxious weed.

Special Status Species

No impacts to red-cockaded woodpecker are expected because of the lack of suitable habitat at or near the project location.

Both black bear and Florida panther are highly unlikely to utilize the tract because of the marginal habitat quality and the project is not expected to affect either species.

Black pine snake is also very unlikely to be affected by this proposed drilling operation. Habitat is not considered suitable and the most recent occurrence record for this species was from 1979.

Although no gopher tortoise or burrows were observed within the fenced enclosure, there is potential for this species to occur in the general area. The well pad construction and drilling operations could impact gopher tortoise through habitat loss, or by being crushed by vehicles, falling into open reserve pits. Precautionary measures should be taken to prevent any individuals from emigrating onto the site. Silt fences should be installed around the project site to prevent this from occurring.



BLM has determined that this project may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect these federally listed and candidate species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this finding in a letter date November 1, 2012.

Wildlife and Vegetation

Many of the native species expected to occur in the site area have broad habitat requirements and would continue to be found in a variety of habitats in the surrounding areas. Wildlife use of the site after the well is put into production would vary depending on vegetation and succession stage. Once put into production the well pad would be reduced in size and the reserve pit area would be graded and seeded. The producing well site would be subject to regular maintenance and inspection. The exotic deer species located in the game preserve will be excluded from the well pad location by a fence. The construction area will be fenced off inside the game preserve to prohibit any animals from leaving the game preserve. Monitoring of the well pad fence will be necessary to ensure safety of the exotic deer species, some of which can jump over very high fences. Any wildlife use of the site is dependent on the adequacy of the restoration. Restoration will be in consideration between BLM, landowner, and the operator.

No Action

There are no environmental impacts associated with the “No Action Alternative”. However, selection of that alternative would result in the loss of potential revenue from the proposed development of the gas well. Future drilling activities from private wells in the area could pose future issues of drainage of federal minerals. “No Action” decision would not allow the BLM to protect federal mineral interests from drainage of private wells around the BLM lease area.

Cumulative Impacts

Oil and Gas development does create impact that is cumulative as more development occurs. The cumulative impacts currently, though, are negligible since new disturbance from oil and gas development is minimal. The well site could have the possibility for more additional wells including the well in this EA depending on Alpine Gas Operator’s future production plans. Having multiple wells on one pad will help curve cumulative impacts from oil and gas development. When well sites are no longer producing they are plugged, abandoned, and surface is reclaimed, so no cumulative impacts are expected to occur due to oil and gas production from the proposed well.



CH. 5 - LIST OF PERSONS CONSULTED

List of Preparers

Specialist Name

Title, Organization

Brian Kennedy

Physical Scientist, BLM

John Sullivan

Archeologist, BLM

Alison McCartney

Natural Resource Specialist, BLM

Gary Taylor

Planning and Environmental Coordinator, BLM

Faye Winters

Wildlife Biologist, BLM

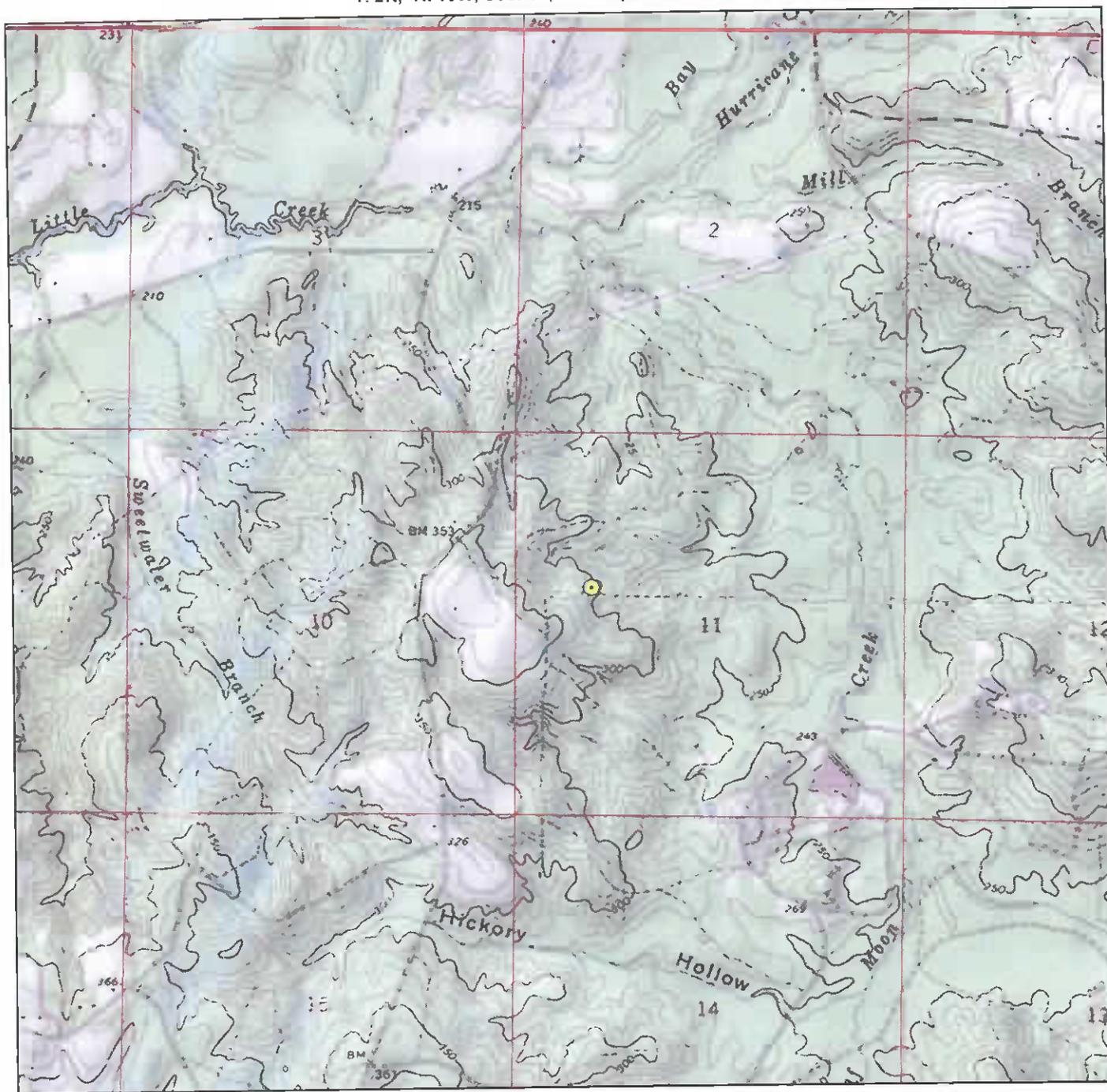


APPENDIX A

Maps



Federal Oil & Gas Well
 Company: Alpine Gas Operator, LLC
 Well Name: Singer 11-10 #3
 Lamar County, MS
 T. 2N, R. 16W, Sec. 11; St. Stephens Meridian



Legend

● Well Location

Singer 11-10 #3:
 SL - 2135' FNL & 1048' FWL
 BL - 2700' FNL & 3050' FWL



U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Southeastern States Field Office
 Jackson, Mississippi



This map contains portions of the following USGS 1:24,000 Topographic Quadrangle: Baxterville NE

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of this data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



APPENDIX B

Surface Use Conditions of Approval



Bureau of Land Management's
Surface Use Conditions of Approval (SUCOA)

**Section 11, T. 2 N., R. 16 W., St. Stephens Meridian, Lamar County, Mississippi on
BLM Lease MSES-50812**

Well: SINGER 11-14 #3

1. If previously unknown sites of religious activities and previously unknown Native American burials are discovered during any ground disturbing activity or any part of this action, these activities will cease so that consultation with appropriate Native American groups will take place. The Authorizing Officer will tell the operator within five (5) working days when or if work may proceed.
2. The operator will avoid known cultural/historic sites during all construction and will be held responsible for informing all persons working at the drill site that they are subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing human remains, historic or archaeological sites and for collecting artifacts (Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended [16 United States Code 470] [43 CFR 7.4]). If human remains, historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during construction, the operator will immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials and contact the BLM, the landowner, and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) (36 CFR 800.11(b)(3)). Within five working days, the BLM, in consultation with the landowner and the SHPO, will inform the operator as to options available and how/if operation in the area of the human remains, historic or archaeological material may proceed. In addition, if a previously unknown site is discovered, consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Native American groups may also be conducted before operations may proceed.
3. All of the reserve pit depth expected to contain fluids or cuttings must be in cut material prevent spillage and seepage of drilling fluids. The mud must be dry in the reserve pit before re-contouring pit area. The operator will be responsible for re-contouring of any subsidence areas that develop from closing a pit before it is completely dry.
4. Alpine Gas Operator, LLC will dispose of any and all fluids according to Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) policies and regulations.
5. The operator is required to take necessary measures to ensure that the final graded slopes are stabilized and to prevent the movement of soil from the pad area for the life of the project. Because of the short term nature of the project and to allow for complete decomposition, only all organic fibers including both the filler and web will be used to allow for complete decomposition. This could include the use of natural matting (jute, coconut fiber, etc.) on steeper slopes and/or use of silt fence at the toe of the slope, or additional mulching. No plastic or inorganic netting will be permitted. Silt fences and



other sediment control objects must be maintained throughout the construction and initial phases of drilling and production. *Note: Operator must install silt fence, or other tortoise-proof barrier, around the perimeter of the project area to keep gopher tortoises from immigrating into the site.* Employees and contractors should be made aware that gopher tortoise are federally listed species and that it is illegal to harass or injury them. After seeding of natural grasses has taken hold to stop erosion of sediments off the pad location, such sediment control devices can be removed.

6. Any construction activities at any time should, by using preventative measures, avoid drainage of fluids, sediments, and/or other contaminants from the well pad into any nearby water bodies or natural drainage areas off of the well pad location.

7. Equipment, fuels, and other chemicals will be properly stored to minimize the potential for spills to enter surface waters. Secondary containment will be provided for all containers stored on site.

8. For safety and protection to the surface and surrounding area, operator must keep the area clean of trash and other debris as much as possible to avoid damaging or contaminating the human and environmental health surrounding the well pad location.

9. To protect the water quality of watersheds and natural stream substrate and morphology supporting special status species and their host species any ground application of herbicides or other pesticides, sterilants, or adjuvants within 150 feet of listed species or habitat will require site-specific control measures developed in coordination or formal consultation with USFWS. No aerial application of herbicides or pesticides will be permitted.

10. To prevent birds and bats from entering or nesting in or on open vent stack equipment, open vent stack equipment, such as heater-treaters, separators, and dehydrator units, will be designed and constructed to prevent birds and bats from entering or nesting in or on such units and, to the extent practical, to discourage birds from perching on the stacks. Installing cone-shaped mesh covers on all open vents is one suggested method. Flat mesh covers are not expected to discourage perching and will not be acceptable.

11. Any reserve pit that is not closed within 10 days after a well is completed and that contains water must be netted or covered with floating balls, or another method must be used to exclude migratory birds.

12. Speed on all operator-constructed and maintained (non-public) roads is advised to be around 25 miles per hour or less to minimize the chance of a collision with migratory birds or other federally listed wildlife species. Slower speeds allow for more reaction time to reduce potential vehicular injuries to wildlife. *Note: BLM can only advise of slower speeds.*



13. All power-lines must be built to protect raptors and other migratory birds, including bald eagles, from accidental electrocution, using methods detailed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC 2006)

14. Disturbed lands will be re-contoured back to conform to existing undisturbed topography. No depressions will be left that trap water or form ponds.

15. All excavated dirt must remain on the landowner's property due to the property having congon grass. Congon grass is an invasive plant species that must be prohibited from being spread to other areas. Any dirt removal may contain congon grass, so Operator must perform operation in a manner as to not spread this invasive species.

16. Post-construction monitoring for congon grass and other invasive plant species should be conducted to ensure early detection and control. If invasive species are found, the proper control techniques approved by BLM and landowner should be used to either eradicate the species from the area or minimize its spread to other areas. *Note: Since congon grass is found in the site area, equipment should be washed before exiting the site to prevent the spread of this highly invasive species to other locations.*

17. To discourage the spread of invasive, non-native plants it is recommended that native cover plants in seeding mixtures be used during reclamation activities. Final seed mixtures will be formulated by BLM. Alpine Gas Operator, LLC will apply BLM's recommended use of native grasses for re-vegetation efforts. Before interim and final reclamation of the well site, Alpine Gas Operator, LLC will contact BLM for the recommended native seed mixtures to be planted.

18. Phased reclamation plans will be submitted to BLM for approval prior to abandonment via a Notice of Intent (NOI) Sundry Notice. Individual facilities, such as well locations, pipelines, discharge points, impoundments, etc. need to be addressed in these plans as they are no longer needed. BLM will inspect those reclamation actions submitted by the operator to ensure that the operator has met all reclamation goals of the BLM and surface owner. A Notice of Intent to Abandon and a Subsequent Report of Abandonment must be submitted for abandonment approval by BLM. Final Abandonment Notice will be filed at the end awaiting BLM's approval of final reclamation. After BLM's approval of final reclamation, operator can be relinquished of its obligations and responsibilities to the well site.



APPENDIX C

Correspondence





PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571
601-576-6850 • Fax 601-576-6975
mdah.state.ms.us
H.T. Holmes, Director

RECEIVED

November 9, 2012

NOV 11 2012

Mr. Duane Winters
Bureau of Land Management
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404
Jackson, Mississippi 39206

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SSFO

RE: Cultural Resources Survey Report for Proposed Oil Well Drill Pad Site Singer Well #3, on 4.55 Acres in Section 11, Township 12 North, Range 16 West, Baxterville NE Quad, MDAH Project Log #10-135-12, Report #12-0619 Lamar County

Dear Mr. Winters:

We have reviewed the October 9, 2012, cultural resources survey report by Garrett W. Silliman, Principal Investigator, received on October 23, 2012, for the above referenced undertaking, pursuant to our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. After review, we concur that no cultural resources or historic properties are likely to be affected. Therefore, we have no reservations with the project.

There remains the possibility that unrecorded cultural resources may be encountered during the project. Should this occur, we would appreciate your contacting this office immediately in order that we may offer appropriate comments under 36 CFR 800.13.

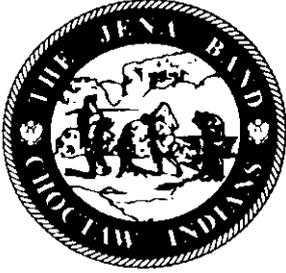
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greg Williamson".

Greg Williamson
Review and Compliance Officer
Historic Preservation Division

FOR: H.T. Holmes
State Historic Preservation Officer





Jena Band of Choctaw Indians

P. O. Box 14 • Jena, Louisiana 71342-0014 • Phone: 318-992-2717 • Fax: 318-992-8244

USDI
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EASTERN STATES
JACKSON FIELD OFFICE
411 BRIARWOOD DRIVE
SUITE 404
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39206

December 21, 2012

**RE: STEVENS MERIDIAN (BAXTERVILLE NE QUADRANGLE)
T.2N., R. 16 W., SEC 11, SL -2135' FNL & 1048' FWL & BL -2700 FNL & 3050' FWL**

Mr. Dawson,

Upon review of the above referenced project, we have no objections to the proposed project activities. We are unaware of any known sacred and/ or ceremonial sites located within the immediate area. Therefore, we concur with the proposed project activities.

However, should any artifacts or archaeological features be encountered during the scope of said projects activities, work shall cease and our office shall be consulted immediately.

We appreciate your efforts on this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Dana Masters, THPO officer, or Candess Chapman, THPO Secretary, at 318-992-1205 or by E-mail: jbc.thpo106@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Dana Masters
THPO
318-992-1205
Fax- 318-992-8244

RECEIVED

DEC 21 2012

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SSFO





COUSHATTA TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

HERITAGE DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED

November 6, 2012

John M. Sullivan, Archeologist
Bureau of Land Management
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404
Jackson, MS 39206

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SSFO

SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance Review

RE: Stevens Meridian (Baxterville NE Quadrangle) T.2 N., R. 16 @., Sec. 11,
SL—2135' FNL & 1048' FWL and BL— 2700' FNL & 3050' FWL

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana has reviewed the above referenced proposed undertaking and are in concurrence with your finding of "no historic properties affected".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Tarpley".

Michael Tarpley
Deputy THPO
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana

KOWASAATON NATHIHILKAS—LET US SPEAK KOASATI





United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mississippi Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

November 1, 2012

IN REPLY REFER TO
2013-I-0058

Ms. Alison McCartney
Bureau of Land Management
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404
Jackson, Mississippi 39206

Dear Ms. McCartney:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the information in your electronic mail dated October 31, 2012, regarding the proposed Alpine Gas Well (APD# Singer 11-10#3) project in Lamar County, Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based on the information provided in the survey report conducted by Pritchett Engineering & Planning, the Service has determined the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect federally listed species. No further consultation under the ESA is required with this office unless there are changes in the scope or location of the proposed project, or if listed species are discovered during construction.

If you have any questions, please contact David Felder of our office, telephone: (601) 321-1131.

Sincerely,

for Stephen M. Ricks
Field Supervisor
MS Field Office



APPENDIX D

References



References Cited:

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service.
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Southeast Region.
<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2002. Birds of Conservation Concern.

Hamel, P. 1992. The Land Manager's Guide to the Birds of the South.

Peterson, R. 1980. Birds of Eastern and Central North America.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).
<http://www.deq.state.ms.us/>

Mississippi Department of Archives and History.
<http://mdah.state.ms.us/>



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment (EA), I have determined that the proposed action, with the mitigation measures and stipulations described under "Surface Use Conditions of Approval", will not have any significant impacts on the human environment, and an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

DECISION RECORD

It is my decision to authorize the SINGER 11-14 #3 APD submitted by Alpine Gas Operator, LLC in Lamar County, Mississippi to flow oil produced from BLM's federal oil and gas lease: MSES-50812. The APD was reviewed and accepted under NEPA guidelines and policy. The applicant's surface protection procedures, set forth in the proposed action, are included in the application and need not be formulated into stipulations. Measures identified for the proposed action in the environmental impact section of the EA have been formulated into "Surface Use Conditions of Approval" (SUCOA). Alpine Gas Operator, LLC will adhere and follow said SUCOAs as part of their permit's approval. This decision incorporates by reference those measures and conditions addressed in the EA for approval of the SINGER 11-14 #3 APD.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The decision to allow the proposed action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation and is in conformance with applicable plans.

Authorized Officer: Krace Hueser (acting for Date: 1-8-13
Bruce Dawson)

