

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

*Miles City Field Office*

**Marathon Oil Company**  
**Flaring Gas**

Determination of NEPA Adequacy  
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0101-DNA

*For Further Information Please Contact:*

Bureau of Land Management  
Miles City Field Office  
111 Garryowen Road  
Miles City, Montana 59301  
406-233-2800

BLM





**Worksheet**  
**Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

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**BLM Office:** Miles City

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-101-DNA

**Case File/Project No:**

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Flaring casing head gas

**Location/Legal Description:** Lot 4 Sec. 9, T31N-R59E

**A: Description of the Proposed Action:** Flaring casing head gas at Marathon Oil Company's Sorenson 34-9H (25-091-21907) well.

**Applicant:** Marathon Oil Company

**County:** Sheridan County

**DNA Originator:** Paul Helland

**B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name\* Big Dry RMP Date Approved April, 1996

Other document EA prepared for the Sands Oil Fed. 1-5H Date Approved Sept. 21, 2011

Other document \_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

*\*List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)*

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) ) Big Dry RMP, Page 325, Under **Separating, Treating, and Storage**, this section states in part, "the gas can be flared or vented into the atmosphere when authorized by permit in accordance with state and federal regulations."

**C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

EA prepared for the Sands Oil Co. Fed. 1-5H APD (25-091-21896) (MTM82973).

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#### **D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Yes, this action is similar to emission sources analyzed in the above mentioned environmental document and is in the same Class II airshed. The impacts would be similar to the action analyzed in the referenced environmental document. The volume of gas associated with this well is small, about 25 mcf/day, and would not significantly degrade air quality.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values?**

Yes, the current circumstances and alternatives are similar to the situation analyzed in the referenced EA. The alternatives are to continue the flaring of casing head gas or no action (not approve the continued flaring of gas). If this gas is not flared, the oil well cannot produce oil. Flaring this gas allows this well to continue to produce oil.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstance would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Yes, the existing analysis is valid and circumstances have not significantly changed regarding air quality in the area.

**4. Are the direct, indirect and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Yes, the effects are similar to the situation analyzed in the referenced EA.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Yes, other appropriate agencies are involved. When the operator has royalty related approval to flare or vent from the BLM, the Conditions of Approval to vent or flare state, "This approval does not constitute approval via permit or rule to vent gas from the Oil and Gas Conservation

Division, Department of Natural Resource and Conservation of the State of Montana or the Air Quality Division, Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. Venting and flaring cannot occur unless it is in compliance with the aforementioned agencies' permits and administrative rules." Thus other agencies relevant to this action are involved as required.

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:** Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>	<u>Initials &amp; Date</u>
<b>Paul Helland</b>	<b>Petroleum Engineer</b>	<b>Minerals</b>	<b>PH 3-5-2013</b>
<b>David Breisch</b>	<b>Assistant Field Manager</b>	<b>Minerals</b>	<i>DJB 3/5/13</i>

  
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**Environmental Coordinator**

3/6/2013  
**Date**

**F. Mitigation Measures:** List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.  
 Please see attached COAs.

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**CONCLUSION**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked

  
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 Approved By: Todd Yeager  
 Field Manager  
 Miles City Field Office

03/07/2013  
**Date**

Marathon Oil Company  
CA 14-20-0256-CA88  
Sorenson 34-9H (25-021-21188)  
Lot 4 Sec. 9, T31N-R59E  
Sheridan County, Montana

Your NTL-4A application for the above captioned well has been approved effective January 18, 2013 as authorized by NTL-4A, IV.B.1. This approval is based on the following:

1. It is not economically feasible to sell or otherwise beneficially use the subject gas at this time due to a lack of sales pipeline availability.

Terms and Conditions of Approval:

1. This approval is for royalty determinations only. No royalty shall accrue if the gas is vented or flared from the above captioned facility.
2. This approval does not constitute approval via permit or rule to vent gas from the Oil and Gas Conservation Division, Department of Natural Resource and Conservation of the State of Montana or the Air Quality Division, Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. Venting and flaring cannot occur unless it is in compliance with the aforementioned agencies' permits and administrative rules.
3. This approval is in effect until February 1, 2015, unless conditions change that would allow the vented/flared gas to be sold. Approval to vent/flare gas after this date will require another NTL-4A application or evidence submitted on Sundry Notice Form 3160-5 that the same conditions exist for which this approval was given.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Helland at 406-233-3668.

You have the right to request a State Director Review of this decision and these Conditions of Approval pursuant to 43 CFR 3165.3(b). An SDR request, including all supporting documentation shall be filed with the Montana State Office, State Director (MT-920) at 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669 within 20 business days of your receipt of this decision. If adversely affected by the State Director's decision, it can be further appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) pursuant to 43 CFR 3165.4, 43 CFR 4.411, and 43 CFR 4.413. Should you fail to timely request an SDR, or after receiving the State Director's decision, fail to timely file an appeal with IBLA, no further administrative review of this decision would be possible.