UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Farmington District
Farmington Field Office
6251 N College Blvd., Ste. A
Farmington, NM 87402

DECISION RECORD

for the

WPX Energy Production, LLC's Chaco 2306-20M Number 208H, Oil & Natural Gas Well

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-FO-*010-2013-0535*
(ATS-F010-13-334)

I. Decision

I have decided to select **Alternative B** for implementation as described in the **Chaco 2306-20M #208H**. Based on my review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and project record, I have concluded that **Alternative B** was analyzed in sufficient detail to allow me to make an informed decision. I have selected this alternative because the proposed **project would allow WPX Energy Production, LLC's access to their proposed drilling site in order to horizontally drill for oil and gas within their valid existing lease.**

II. Conformance and Compliance

The proposed action is in conformance with the 2003 BLM-FFO Resource Management Plan (RMP). Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, this site-specific Environmental Assessment (EA) tiers into and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the BLM-FFO Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) (BLM 2003a). The RMP was approved by the September 29, 2003 Record of Decision (ROD) (BLM 2003b), and updated in December 2003.

It is the policy of the BLM to make mineral resources available for disposal and to encourage development of mineral resources to meet national, regional, and local needs, consistent with national objectives of an adequate supply of minerals at reasonable market prices. At the same time, the BLM strives to ensure that mineral development is carried out in a manner that minimizes environmental damage and provides for the rehabilitation of affected lands. (BLM 2003b, 2-2 – 2-3)

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

I have reviewed the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed activities documented in the EA for the **Chaco 2306-20M #208H**. I have also reviewed the project record for this analysis. The effects of the proposed action and alternatives are disclosed in the Alternatives and Environmental Consequences sections of the EA. I have determined that **construction of a well pad, access road to allow WPX Energy Production, LLC's reasonable access to the mineral lease in order to develop the existing lease** as described in the EA will not

significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, I have determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

IV. Other Alternatives Considered

The proposed well would be horizontally drilled and would be located adjacent to an existing road. No other alternatives were analyzed that would result in less disturbance.

V. Rationale for the Decision

Pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1508.28 and 1502.21, this site-specific environmental assessment (EA) tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the Farmington Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement [(PRMP/FEIS) BLM 2003a]. This EA is in conformance with the management goals set forth in the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Farmington Field Office (FFO) of the BLM, which was approved by the Record of Decision (ROD) signed September 29, 2003 (BLM 2003b). Specifically, this action is in conformance with the following: It is the policy of the BLM to make mineral resources available for disposal and to encourage development of mineral resources to meet national, regional, and local needs, consistent with national objectives of an adequate supply of minerals at reasonable market prices. At the same time, the BLM strives to ensure that mineral development is carried out in a manner that minimizes environmental damage and provides for the rehabilitation of affected lands (2003b, 2-2). The PRMP/FEIS, RMP, and ROD are available for review at the BLM Farmington Field Office, 6251 College Blvd., Farmington, NM, or electronically at:

[The proposed action is in conformance with the 2003 BLM-FFO Resource Management Plan (RMP). Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, this site-specific Environmental Assessment (EA) tiers into and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the BLM-FFO Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) (BLM 2003a). The RMP was approved by the September 29, 2003 Record of Decision (ROD) (BLM 2003b), and updated in December 2003.

Specifically, the proposed project supports the following BLM policy:

> It is the policy of the BLM to make mineral resources available for disposal and to encourage development of mineral resources to meet national, regional, and local needs, consistent with national objectives of an adequate supply of minerals at reasonable market prices. At the same time, the BLM strives to ensure that mineral development is carried out in a manner that minimizes environmental damage and provides for the rehabilitation of affected lands. (BLM 2003b, 2-2 – 2-3)

[Regulations under 43 CFR 1610.5 requires the proposed action to be in conformance with the terms and the conditions of the RMP as approved by the ROD signed September 29, 2003 (BLM 2003b) and updated in December 2003.

I have determined that the activities described in the proposed action will not adversely affect or cause loss or destruction of scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)). **Cultural resource surveys were completed (BLM report Number 2013 (IV) 033 F). Cultural resources were identified within the project area.**

1.SITE PROTECTION AND EMPLOYEE EDUCATION:
All employees of the project, including the Project Sponsor and its contractors and sub-contractors will be informed that cultural sites are to be avoided by all personnel, personal vehicles and company equipment. They will also be notified that it is illegal to collect, damage, or

disturb cultural resources, and that such activities are punishable by criminal and or administrative penalties under the provisions of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm) when on federal land and the New Mexico Cultural Properties Act NMSA 1978 when on state land.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING IS REQUIRED:
A copy of these stipulations will be supplied to the archeological monitor at least two working days prior to the start of construction activities. No construction activities, including vegetation removal, may begin before the arrival of the archaeological monitor.

The monitor will:

- Ensure that the site protection barriers are located as indicated on the attached maps in the vicinity of LA177068.
- Observe all surface disturbing activities within 100' of LA177068.
- Submit a report of the monitoring activities within 30 days of completion of monitoring unless other arrangements are made with the BLM. These stipulations must be attached to the report.

3. SITE PROTECTION BARRIER:

- Temporary site protection barriers will be erected prior to construction. The barriers will consist of upright wooden survey lath spaced no more than 10 feet apart and marked with blue flagging or blue paint. The barriers will remain in place through reclamation and reseeding and shall be promptly removed after reclamation.
- The barriers will be placed as indicated on the attached maps.
- There will be no surface-disturbing activities or vehicle traffic past the barriers.

Note: If there are questions about these stipulations, contact Brian Deaton (BLM) at 505.564.7674 or bdeaton@blm.gov.

The proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)). **The project area is not within any Sensitive species or Threaten and Endangered habitat.**

VI. Public Involvement

The Notice of Staking was made available for the public to review at the Farmington Field Office. No comments were received. The project was posted on the Farmington Field Office NEPA log. No comments were received.

VII. Administrative Review and Appeal

Chapter 3Under BLM regulations, this Decision Record (DR) is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of this DR, with or without oral presentation, must include information required under 43 CFR 3165.3(b) (State Director Review), including all supporting documentation. Such a request must be filed in writing with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87508, no later than 20 business days after this DR is received or considered to have been received.
Chapter 4Any party who is adversely affected by the State Director's decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, as provided in 43 CFR 3165.4.

/s/Dale Wirth for
Maureen Joe
Assistant Field Manager
Farmington Field Office

10/17/13
Date