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
SE Mounds No. 3
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-F010-2013-0099

I. Decision

I have decided to select **Alternative B** for implementation as described in the **SE Mounds No. 3**. 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 XTO Energy, Inc. access to their proposed drilling site in order to directionally drill for oil and gas within their valid existing lease.**

II. Finding of No Significant Impact

I have reviewed the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed activities documented in the EA for the **SE Mounds No. 3**. 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, pipeline tie and access road to allow SE Mounds No. 3 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.

III. Other Alternatives Considered But not Analyzed

An alternative to the proposed action was considered to place the well head at 495 feet from the south line (FSL) and 555 feet from the east line (FEL) of Section 6. This alternative well pad location would be on both BLM-managed and private surface. Additionally, this alternative action would shorten the proposed access road by approximately 300 feet and the well-tie pipeline by approximately 339 feet, decreasing potential new surface disturbance by approximately 0.52 acres. This alternative was eliminated from further analysis as the City of Farmington has proposed future development in the alternative action area. The proposed location was selected for the best drainage of subsurface resources while protecting surface resources to the maximum extent possible and accommodating future Farmington development plans in the project area.

IV. 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: http://www.nm.blm.gov/ffo/ffo_home.html.

The SE Mounds #3 project is located in the La Plata River Tract #9 ACEC. The main goal of the La Plata River Tracts ACEC is to protect and rehabilitate the riparian and wetland habitats consistent with the Riparian and Aquatic HMP of 2000. Also, existing oil and gas leases will be managed under special management constraints or site requirements on APD. The SE Mounds #3 well pad, access road and pipeline are above the La Plata River and are not within the riparian area. No construction, drilling, or completion activities from May 1 to August 15 without a USFWS protocol Southwestern willow flycatcher survey (SWWF). Surveys will be conducted by a BLM/FFO approved biologist. After completion, continual noise levels from well cannot exceed 48.6 dBh(A) at the boundary of the riparian area of potential SWWF habitat.

A letter of concurrence from the City of Farmington was submitted to the BLM on January 10th, 2011. The City of Farmington concurred that the SE Mounds #3 location will not impact the City's immediate plans at the Sports Complex. The letter does not approve or permit this project in any way, the operator must obtain proper permits for a gas well and all other developments in accordance with the City's requirements.

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 2011 (I) 050 F). Cultural resources were identified within the project area and will be protected by site protection barrier fences and monitoring. The project is not within a Traditional Cultural Property or Cultural ACEC.**

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 is within the La Plata River Tract #9 ACEC but it is not within any Sensitive species or Threaten and Endangered habitat. The project is above the La Plata River and is not in the riparian area.**

V. Public Involvement

The Notice of Staking was made available for the public to review at the Farmington Field Office. No comments were received. Additionally, the SE Mounds No. 3 Environmental Assessment was posted externally on the web for thirty (30) days. There were no comments received.

VI. Appeals

Under BLM regulations, this decision record is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of this decision record 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 Decision Record is received or considered to have been received.

Any 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/Maureen Joe
Maureen Joe
Assistant Field Manager

5/1/13
Date