UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Farmington District
Farmington Field Office
6251 N College Blvd., Ste. A
Farmington, NM 87402

Finding of No Significant Impact

Houck Com #2 N & #2
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-F010-2013-005

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

I have determined that the proposed action, as described in the EA will not have any significant impact, individually or cumulatively, on the quality of the human environment. Because there would not be any significant impact, an environmental impact statement is not required.

In making this determination, I considered the following factors:

1. The activities described in the proposed action do not include any significant beneficial or adverse impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)). The EA includes a description of the expected environmental consequences of **constructing a new well pad, access road and pipeline tie.**

2. The activities included in the proposed action would not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).

3. The proposed activities would not significantly affect any unique characteristics (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)) of the geographic area such as prime and unique farmlands, caves, wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or areas of critical concern.

4. The activities described in the proposed action do not involve effects on the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).

5. The activities described in the proposed action do not involve effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).

6. My decision to implement these activities does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).

7. The effects **of constructing a new well pad, and pipeline tie** would not be significant, individually or cumulatively, when considered with the effects of other actions (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)). The EA discloses that there are no other connected or cumulative actions that would cause significant cumulative impacts.

8. 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 (III) 066 F). Cultural resources were identified within the project area but would be avoided by constructing a temporary barrier along with the use of a monitor during the construction and completion phase of the operation..** The proposed wells, access road and pipeline ties are not within any cultural Area of Critical Environment Concern

9. The project area is not within any SDA Wildlife Closures areas.

10. 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 within the Aztec Gilia, Brack's cactus Sensitive species/Threaten and Endangered habitat. Eleven Brack's cactus specimens were salvaged and replanted by the BLM T&E coordinator.**

11. The proposed activities will not threaten any violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).

APPROVED:

/s/ JM Flaniken	10/11/12
Environmental Protection Specialist	Date
/s/ Bill Liess	10/11/12
Bill Liess, Branch Chief, Environmental Protection	Date