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

Cluster 9

Lybrook E33-2307

(ATS-F010-13-352 & ATS-F010-13-353)

Lybrook L33-2307

(ATS-F010-13-354)

Lybrook P32-2307

(ATS-F010-13-355)

Lybrook Access Road #2 Upgrade

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-F010-2014-0089

I. Decision

I have decided to select **Proposed Action** for implementation as described in the **Cluster 9: Lybrook E33-2307, Lybrook L33-2307, *Lybrook P32-2307 & Lybrook Access Road #2 Upgrade.*** Based on my review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and project record, I have concluded that **Proposed Action** was analyzed in sufficient detail to allow me to make an informed decision. I have selected this alternative because the proposed **project would allow Encana O&G (USA) access to their proposed drilling sites 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 **Cluster 9: Lybrook E33-2307, Lybrook L33-2307, *Lybrook P32-2307 & Lybrook Access Road #2 Upgrade.*** 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 three new well pads, access roads, pipeline ties, and the upgrade of the Lybrook Access Road #2 will allow Encana O&G (USA) reasonable access to the mineral leases in order to develop the existing leases** 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

Several configurations of the proposed well pads, pipelines, and roads were considered and evaluated by the applicant, BLM, and natural and cultural resources experts using desktop tools and in-field examination. These alternatives were considered but have been eliminated from further consideration as they would have resulted in greater environmental impacts:

- The site originally proposed for the Lybrook E33-2307 well pad is west of the currently proposed site. Approximately 45 Brack's hardwall cactus were identified on the proposed road/pipeline ROW. To avoid impacting the cacti, the well was moved east and twinned with the existing Federal 1 #4 well, and the road and pipeline were rerouted.
- The site originally proposed for the Lybrook L33-2307 well pad was rejected based on the presence of Brack's hardwall cactus and paleontological resources. Subsequently the site was moved 50 feet south and the pad was reduced in size by 50 feet on one side.
- The original configuration of the Lybrook P32-2307 well pad was changed (reduced in size and corners rounded) to minimize impacts to Brack's hardwall cactus.

- Twinning of the Lybrook L33-2307 and P32-2307 well pads was considered; however, the minimum size for a two-well pad is 400 by 430 feet with a 50-foot-wide construction zone to safely accommodate equipment required during the drilling and completion phases. The sizes of the L33-2307 and P32-2307 well pads were confined by topography and avoidance of paleontological resources and Brack's hardwall cactus. Both of these well pads as proposed were reduced in size to minimize environmental impacts. Therefore, neither of the well pads would be large enough to accommodate two wells.

V. Rationale for the Decision

Pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1508.28 and 1502.21, this EA incorporates the information and analysis contained in the 2003 Farmington Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (USDI/BLM 2003a). The proposed action would be in conformance with the oil and gas leasing and development management actions in the Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Record of Decision (ROD) signed in December 2003 and updated later that month (USDI/BLM 2003b). The proposed action would be in conformance with the 2003 RMP/ROD that states, to the extent possible, new ROWs will be located within or parallel to existing ROWs or corridors to minimize resource impacts (USDI/BLM 2003b, page 2-11).
The PRMP/FEIS and ROD are available for review at the FFO in Farmington, New Mexico or electronically at
http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/nm/field_offices/farmington/farmington_planning/ffo_

prmp_docs.Par.89022.File.dat/Farmington_ROD.pdf. This project EA addresses site-specific resources and/or impacts not covered within the PRMP/FEIS, as required by NEPA.

The proposed activities would not significantly affect any unique characteristics of the geographic area such as such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)). **The projects are within the Lybrook Fossil Area. The projects were moved or have modified construction to mitigate the paleontology sites. Paleontology sites will be protected by monitoring.**

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 2014(I)038F, 2014(I)021F, 2013(IV)029F, 2014(II)023F). Cultural resources were identified along the Lybrook Access Road #2 upgrade (2014 (II)023F); site monitoring and site protection fencing is required. Cultural resources were not within the other project areas. None of the projects are not within a Traditional Cultural Property or 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 projects are located within the new Brack's Cactus and Aztec Gilia mapped habitat area. All the projects will follow the Brack's Cactus Interim Guidance Policy. The Brack's Cactus have been avoided where possible and the ones that could not be avoided will be mitigated by transplanting. The project areas are not within any 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

Under 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.

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.

Maureen Joe
Assistant Field Manager
Farmington Field Office

04/01/14
Date