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

Escrito A28-2409 Nos. 01H & 02H and Escrito M30-2409 Nos. 01H & 02H

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-F010-2014-0191

I. Decision

I have decided to select the **Alternative B** for implementation as described in the **Escrito A28-2409 Nos. 01H & 02H and Escrito M30-2409 Nos. 01H & 02H EA**. Based on my review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and project record, I have concluded that **the 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 Encana O&G (USA) access to their drilling sites in order to horizontally drill for oil and gas within their valid existing lease. Alternative B (Good Times P25-2410 Alternative) allows Encana O&G (USA) access to their minerals while reducing impacts to BLM Sensitive Species habitat, livestock grazing, and the environment.**

II. Conformance and Compliance

Alternative B 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 **Alternative B** activities documented in the EA for the **Escrito A28-2409 Nos. 01H & 02H and Escrito M30-2409 Nos. 01H & 02H**. 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 two (2) new well pads along with the associated access roads and pipeline ties will allow Encana O&G (USA) 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

One action alternative (Good Times P25-2410 Nos. 01H and 02H) was identified for the projects. Under this alternative, the Escrito M30-2409 Nos. 01H and 02H would be replaced by this Good Times P25-2410 Nos. 01H and 02H (referred to as the "Alternative Good Times P25"). The Alternative Good Times P25 well pad (including construction zone), access road, and pipeline tie corridor would be located further west thant the proposed Escrito M30 project. The Alternative Good Times P25 wells would each be permitted under an APD and the associated well pad (including construction zone), access road, and pipeline tie would each be permitted under a ROW Grant.

Under the Alternative Good Times P25 project, the total new disturbance associated with the Escrito A28 and Alternative Good Times P25 projects would be 14.8 acres (as opposed to 15.9 acres under the proposed project). Of this, 2.8 acres would remain disturbed for the life of the alternative project (as opposed to 3.3 acres under the proposed project). The remaining 12.0 acres would be reclaimed during interim reclamation (as opposed to 12.6 acres under the proposed project).

A different well pad (including construction zone), access road, and pipeline tie were considered for the Escrito A28-2409 project. This different location was known as the Escrito M22-2409 No. 01H (Escrito M22) project. The Escrito M22 well pad location was outside of Encana's surface hole location polygons for the proposed Escrito A28 wells; therefore, only one of the proposed Escrito A28 wells would have been reached from the Escrito M22 well pad. As a result, Encana would have had to construct both the Escrito A28 and Escrito M22 projects in order to reach both of the proposed Escrito A28 wells.

V. Rationale for the Decision

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 action 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)

Development of energy-related ROWs, including access roads and pipeline corridors, is one of the primary activities of the BLM-FFO lands program. Such ROWs receive environmental review on a case-by-case basis (BLM 2003b 2-11).

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(III)053F & 2014(III)013F). Cultural resources were identified within the project area and will be protected by site**

barrier fencing and monitoring. The project is 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.

/s/Maureen Joe
Maureen Joe
Assistant Field Manager
Farmington Field Office

7/10/14
Date