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 2308-14E Nos. 151H & 152H Oil & Natural Gas Well

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-FO-*010-2014-0065*
(ATS-F010-13-16 ATS F010-14-31)

I. Decision

I have decided to select **Alternative A** for implementation as described in the **Chaco 2308-14E #151H and Chaco 2308-14E 152H**. Based on my review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and project record, I have concluded that **Alternative A** 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 2308-14E #151H and Chaco 2308-14E 152H**. 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 and pipeline 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

Alternative C is the BLM-FFO approval of two APDs (for the 151H and 152H wells) and BLM-FFO issuance of three ROW Grants (for the well pad/construction zone, access road 1, and pipeline corridor). In addition, two Navajo Nation ROW Grants would be required for the use of the existing access road and for the Navajo Nation Tribal Trust portion of the pipeline corridor.

Alternative C would be similar to the proposed action, with the following exception: neither access road 2 nor TUA 3 would be constructed. The portion of the pipeline corridor that would have paralleled access road 2 (under the proposed action) or travelled cross-country (under Alternative B) would instead parallel the existing access road, which crosses Navajo Nation surface.

As under Alternative B, WPX would be required to drive along the existing access road to access the 151H/152H well pad; a portion of this road crosses Navajo Nation Tribal Trust surface. In addition, a portion of the pipeline ties would cross Navajo Nation Tribal Trust surface. WPX would have to obtain Navajo Nation ROW Grants for the usage of the existing road and the construction/usage of the pipeline ties. The permitting associated with these ROW Grants is described in the introduction of Chapter 2 of this EA.

Otherwise, the project location and description, including mitigation and best management practices, would be the same under the proposed project (Alternative A) and Alternative C.

WPX and the BLM considered moving the proposed well pad slightly to the south or northeast of its current location to avoid rugged topography. Moving the 151H/152H well pad to the south (toward the existing road) was not feasible because an Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. (Encana) pipeline is currently staked along the northern side of this road. Additionally, this location would be outside of WPX's drilling window for the proposed wells. Moving the 151H/152H well pad to the northeast was undesirable due to the presence of a large, ephemeral drainage and the potential presence of sensitive paleontological resources. 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 2014 (I) 046 F). Cultural resources were not identified within the project area.**

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. The projects are located within the newly discovered Potential Brack's Cactus and Aztec Gilia habitat. The proposed projects are in accordance with the Aztec Gilia/Brack's Cactus Interim Guidance.**

The project area is within Lybrook Fossil Area: There are approximately 25,703 acres within the boundary of the Lybrook Fossil Area, of which 18,268 acres are public land (BLM) and 19,840 acres contain Federal minerals. Farmington 2003 RMP management prescriptions: manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint, Paleontological clearance required for surface-disturbing activities on current and new oil and gas leased acreage, and ROWs granted on a case-by-case basis with management constraints that protect paleontological values (page C-99 of the Farmington 2003 RMP).

The proposed project area is within Lybrook Fossil Specially Designated Area (SDA), which is managed to facilitate scientific study and protect paleontological resources (BLM 2003a, N-94). The BLM-FFO paleontologist, who attended the on-site meeting, determined that, with mitigation, no impacts to paleontological resources are anticipated as a result of the proposed project. Mitigation would include paleontological construction monitoring within portions of the proposed project area; these areas are to be determined by the BLM-FFO paleontologist.

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

2/25/14
Date