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 7

Lybrook H09-2308

ATS-F010-13-342

Lybrook H14-2308

ATS-F010-13-343

Lybrook I10-2308

ATS-F010-13-339, ATS-F010-13-341, ATS-F010-13-336

Lybrook L14-2308

ATS-F010-13-345

Lybrook M11-2308

ATS-F010-13-190, ATS-F010-13-338

Lybrook Access Road #3

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-F010-2014-0087

I. Decision

I have decided to select **a portion of the Proposed Action, specifically, upgrading an existing road and constructing five (5) new well pads and associated access roads and pipeline ties,** for implementation as described in the **Cluster 7 EA**. 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 these portions of the Proposed Action because the **cultural report for the Chaco Trunk #2 Phase 2 project is still being reviewed and the other** proposed **projects 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. The Chaco Trunk #2 Phase #2 may be permitted once the cultural review is completed and any cultural issues are mitigated.**

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 7**. 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 **upgrading an existing road, constructing five (5) new well pads and 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

The applicant analyzed several scenarios to determine how to best develop Sections 10 and 14, Township 23 North, Range 8 West. Rough topography and numerous cultural sites make this area challenging to develop. 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.

Lybrook H09-2308

The proposed pipeline and road alignment was modified to minimize impacts to Brack's hardwall cactus. The original alignment has been eliminated from detailed consideration. An alternative well pad location was identified during the on-site but was eliminated based on topography and the presence of cultural resources and Brack's hardwall cactus.

Lybrook H14-2308

During the on-site, an alternative was identified southeast of proposed location. However, this site contained cultural resources that could not be avoided. The potential alternative was eliminated from detailed consideration.

Lybrook I10-2308

The original location at 2533 FSL and 321 FEL of Section 10 (BHL 1880 FNL and 330 FWL of Section 10) was eliminated from detailed consideration because it would have impacted Brack's hardwall cactus and possibly cultural and paleontological resources. A large ephemeral drainage was also located in the area. Two alternatives were identified during the on-site evaluation, one of which was eliminated from detailed consideration as it would have impacted cultural resources and unique topography. The second alternative is presented as the proposed action.

Lybrook L14-2308

An alternative was identified during the on-site evaluations. During surveys of the location more Brack's hardwall cactus were recorded than on the original location. Additionally, the alternative site would have impacted cultural resources; therefore, the alternative was eliminated from detailed consideration.

Lybrook H09-2308, Lybrook H14-2308, Lybrook I10-2308, Lybrook L14-2308, Lybrook M11-2308, Chaco Trunk #2 Phase 2, Lybrook Access Road #3

Lybrook M11-2308

The original pipeline route was modified to parallel existing disturbance associated with the road. The original route was eliminated from detailed consideration.

Lybrook A15-2308

The proposed Lybrook A15-2308 well pad was dropped from consideration and the well will be twinned with the proposed Lybrook M11-2308 well.

Chaco Trunk #2 Phase 2

The original alignment extended cross country in several locations. The alignment was modified to follow existing disturbance for its entire length. The original alignment was eliminated from detailed consideration.

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 December 2003 and updated in December 2003 (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.nm.blm.gov/ffo/ffo_home.html.

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 2013 (IV) 042 F, 2014(I)015F, 2014(I)017F, 2014(I)054F, 2014(II)035F,2014 (I)037F). Cultural resources were identified within the project area, and will be protected by site barrier fencing and site monitoring. The projects are not within a Traditional Cultural Property or ACEC.** The cultural report for the Chaco Trunk #2 Phase 2 project is still being reviewed and will not be permitted at this time.

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 Stakings (NOS) were made available for the public to review at the Farmington Field Office. No comments were received. The EA 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
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Maureen Joe
Assistant Field Manager
Farmington Field Office

5/22/2014
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Date