

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) Worksheet, WY-070-DNA11-261
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo, WY

OFFICE: BLM, Buffalo Field Office (BFO), 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBERS: WYW174474, WYW174475, WYW174728

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE: APD Extension

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sections 9, 10, 15, 22 T45N R69W

APPLICANT : EOG Resources, Inc.

A. Description of the Proposed Activity and any applicable mitigation measures

EOG Resources, Inc. (EOG) failed to drill the following wells approved on 4/24/2009: Keeline Ranch 02-09H, Grand Prix 01-10H, Lemans 01-15H, Grand Am 01-22H. The APDs were permitted for a period of 2 years from the approval date. EOG requested extensions via sundry on April 7 and April 11, 2011, prior to the expiration date of the APDs. A DNA is being prepared to determine if new NEPA analysis is required in order to extend the APDs for an additional 2 years.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

LUP Name: Buffalo RMP, 1985; amended in 2001 & 2003

The Buffalo RMP, 1985, and as amended in 2001 provides to "Continue to lease and allow development of federal oil and gas in the Buffalo Resource Area" (MM-7: 1985 Buffalo RMP ROD at pg.16, 2001 RMP update at pg. 9).

The 2003 supplement to the Buffalo RMP provided goals and objectives for "future management of oil and gas operations....within the Buffalo...RMP areas" 2003 PRB FEIS ROD pg. 6.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

- EOG Resources, Inc. Pontiac Conventional Oil Wells Environmental Assessment, WY-070-EA09-004 approved 4/29/09
- Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) . . . for the Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project, BFO 2003

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

- Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project Final Biological Opinion (12/17/02, 03/23/2007)
- Buffalo Field Office Wildlife Database, continuously updated
- Buffalo Field Office Cultural Database, continuously updated
- Guidance for general management actions during BFO Resource Management Plan Revision

as of August 13, 2008, Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Field Office

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the new proposed activity a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Yes. The proposed action is exactly the same as the preferred alternative approved in WY-070-EA09-004.

- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes. EOG Resources, Inc. included operator committed measures in their master surface use plan consistent with BFO objectives to minimize impacts to sage-grouse and habitat fragmentation in focus areas.

- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Yes. Blowout penstemon was added to the list of threatened and endangered species found in the Buffalo Field Office resource management area after the original APDs were approved; however, a review of the onsite notes and photographs by both the BLM and USFWS biologists confirms that suitable habitat for the species is not present.

- 4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Yes, direct, indirect and cumulative impacts are unchanged from those identified/analyzed in the existing NEPA documentation.

- 5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Yes, the public involvement and interagency review associated with the EOG Resources, Inc. Pontiac Conventional Oil Wells Environmental Assessment is adequate for the current proposed action.

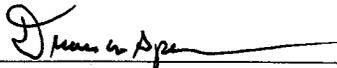
E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

NAME	BLM OFFICE/AGENCY	TITLE
Darci Stafford	Buffalo Field Office	Wildlife Biologist
Brad Rogers	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Note: Refer to the EOG Resources, Inc. Pontiac Conventional Oil Wells Environmental Assessment for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion (If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.)

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



Signature of the Buffalo Field Manager:

6/23/11

Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.