

**DECISION RECORD  
FOR  
EOG Resources, Inc.  
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)  
Project 785 Bolt 01-35H  
WY-070-DNA11-367**

**DECISION:**

BLM's decision is to approve EOG Resource Inc. (EOG) Project 785 1 oil well application for permit to drill (APD) of the attached DNA worksheet WYW-070-DNA11-367, incorporated here by reference. The DNA proposal is the result of collaboration between the Bureau of Land Management and EOG. The DNA proposal analyzed in the DNA worksheet was found to have no significant impacts on the human environment, beyond those described in the Powder River Basin Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRB FEIS), thus an EIS or EA is not required.

Details of the approval are summarized below. The project description, including specific changes made at the onsites is included in the DNA worksheet, and in environmental assessment, WY-070-EA10-238.

**Well Sites:**

The following 1 application for permit to drill (APD) and support infrastructure are authorized:

	<b>Well Name</b>	<b>Well #</b>	<b>Qtr/Qtr</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>TWP</b>	<b>RNG</b>	<b>Lease #</b>
1	Bolt	01-35H	SESE	Sec 35	42N	72W	WYW-143526

**Operator Committed Measures:**

The operator has incorporated several measures to alleviate resource impacts into their Master Surface Use Plan (MSUP), submitted on May 18, 2010. Refer to the MSUP pp. 1-11, for complete details of operator committed measures.

**Site-Specific Mitigation Measures:**

Site-specific conditions of approvals (COAs) are applied to this project, in addition to the programmatic and standard COAs identified in the PRB FEIS, to mitigate the site-specific impacts described in the Environmental Effects Section of EA, WY-070-EA10-238. For a complete description of all site-specific COA's associated with this approval, see Section 4 in the EA.

**COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS, REGULATIONS, LAND USE PLANS, AND POLICIES:**

This approval is in compliance with all federal laws, regulations, and policies. This includes, but is not limited to, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Threatened and Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Approval of this DNA worksheet is in conformance with the *Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan Amendment (PRB FEIS)*, *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project (PRB FEIS ROD)*, and the Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Field Office (BFO), (1985/2001/2003/2011).

This approval is subject to adherence with all of the operating plans, design features, and mitigation measures contained in the Master Surface Use Plan of Operations, Drilling Plan, Water Management Plan, and information in individual APDs. This approval is also subject to operator compliance with all mitigation and monitoring requirements.

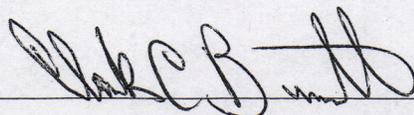
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) analyzed alternative B of EA, WYW-070-EA10-238, its FONSI, and the FONSI for the DNA worksheet, WYW-070-DNA11-367, found no significant impact on the human environment beyond those in the BPR FEIS, thus an EIS is not required.

**RATIONALE:**

The decision to authorize the selected DNA alternative, as summarized above, is based on the following:

1. The Operator, in their project, has committed to:
  - Comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.
  - Obtain the necessary permits from other agencies for the drilling, completion and production of this well including water rights appropriations, and relevant air quality permits.
  - Implementation of committed mitigation measures contained in the SUP and Drilling Program, in addition to the COAs associated with the EA, WY-070-EA10-238, in order to ensure there will be no significant impact.
2. The Operator certified that it has a Surface Use Agreement with the Landowners.
3. The selected alternative will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.
4. It is in the public interest to approve this well, as this development will help meet the nation's energy needs, and will help to stimulate local economies by maintaining workforce stability.
5. Mitigation measures were selected to alleviate environmental impacts and meet the project's purposes and needs. Mitigation is discussed in the environmental consequences section of the EA referenced above. For a complete description of all site-specific COAs associated with this approval, see Section 4 in the EA. This APD area is clearly lacking wilderness characteristics as there is no federal surface.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEAL:** Under BLM regulations, this decision is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of this decision 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, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, no later than 20 business days after this Decision Record 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.

Field Manager:  Date: 11/28/11

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), WY-070-DNA11-367**  
**EOG Resources, Inc. (EOG) Project 785, Bolt 01-35H**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

On the basis of the information in DNA, WY-070-DNA11-367, and other information available to me, I find that: (1) the implementation of the DNA worksheet will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in Powder River Basin Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRB FEIS) and environmental analysis, WY-070-EA10-238, to which the EA tiers; (2) the DNA worksheet conforms with the Buffalo Field Office Resource Management Plan (1985, 2001, 2003, 2011); and (3) the DNA worksheet does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA and DNA Worksheet, and DOI Order 3310.

**CONTEXT**

Mineral development is a long-standing land use in the PRB. Over 42% of the nation's coal comes from the PRB. The PRB FEIS reasonably foreseeable development analyzed the development of 51,000 gas wells and 3,200 oil wells. The additional oil well development in the DNA is insignificant in the national, regional, and local context. The conditions and environmental effects in the EA and PRB FEIS are valid.

**INTENSITY**

The implementation of the DNA will result in beneficial effects in the forms of energy and revenue production however; there will also be adverse effects to the environment. Design features and mitigation measures included in the EA prevent significant adverse environmental effects. The preferred alternative does not pose a significant risk to public health and safety. The geographic area of the project does not contain unique characteristics identified in the 1985 RMP, 2011 PRB FEIS, or other legislative or regulatory processes. BLM used relevant scientific literature and professional expertise in preparing the DNA. The scientific community is reasonably consistent with their conclusions on environmental effects relative to oil and gas development. Research findings on the nature of the environmental effects are not highly controversial, highly uncertain, or involve unique or unknown risks. Oil well development of the nature proposed with this project and similar projects was predicted and analyzed in the PRB FEIS; the selected project does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects. There are no cultural or historical resources present that will be adversely affected by the selected alternative. No species listed under the Endangered Species Act or their designated critical habitat will be adversely affected. The selected alternative will not have any anticipated effects that would threaten a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The APD area is clearly lacking wilderness characteristics as there is no federal surface.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEAL.** This finding is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of this finding 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, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, no later than 20 business days after this finding is received or considered to have been received. Any party who is adversely affected by the State Director's finding may appeal that finding to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, as per 43 CFR 3165.4.

Field Manager: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4/28/11

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) Worksheet  
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: EOG Project 785, WY-070-DNA11-367

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE: EOG Project 785 Bolt 01-35H

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T42N R72W SESE Sec 35

APPLICANT: EOG

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

The Proposed Action is to explore for and possibly develop oil and natural gas reserves within geologic formations currently leased by EOG in Wyoming. EOG proposes to drill, complete, produce, and eventually reclaim up to 1 well to the Mowry, Niobrara, and Turner formations, using horizontal boring technology from a centralized well pad. The well pad would initially be built to accommodate drilling two horizontal well bores. The well pad may subsequently be expanded by 32 feet on one side to accommodate two additional wells. The life of each productive well is anticipated to be up to 40 years. Associated infrastructure would only include access roads. No gathering pipelines, power lines, or transmission lines are proposed at this time since the proposed well is an exploratory well and product recovery and production viability is unknown. Any future gathering pipelines, power lines, transmission lines, or other infrastructure would be analyzed in a separate NEPA document. Application for permit to drill (APD) Bolt 01-35H is subject to standard split estate jurisdictional rules: private surface over federal minerals (federal lands).

**Well Pads:**

The well pad will be constructed from on-site native sand/soil/rock materials. The well pad location will be initially leveled to create a flat workable surface for drilling equipment. A level pad would be achieved through the balancing of both cuts and fills to alleviate the need for imported materials. Cut-and-fill slopes would be designed to allow for maximum retention of topsoil and subsoil fill material. Prior to well pad cuts and fills, topsoil and native vegetation would be stripped and removed from the pad footprint for future use during the reclamation process. The stockpiling of topsoil and stripped vegetation will allow for a native seed bank that should facilitate the re-establishment of vegetation.

For specifics, refer to the Master Surface Use Plan (MSUP) in the plan of development (POD). For a description of design features, construction practices associated with the proposed action refer to the Surface Use Plan (SUP) and the Drilling Plan associated with the APD, incorporated here by reference.

**Table 1. Summary of Proposed Wells**

Well Pad Name	Total Depth	Maximum # of wells	Acres of Disturbance	Interim Reclamation	Access Road	Access Road
Bolt 01-35H	14,711	4	3.70	1.62 acres	0.60 miles	2.92 acres

**Table 2. Surface Disturbances for APD Bolt 01-35H**

Activity	Length (feet)	Width (feet)	Disturbance (acres)
Well Pad	432	335	3.32
Cut/fills & Topsoil/spoil stockpiles	Varies	Varies	0.38
Access Road	3,182	40	2.92
Total Initial Disturbance			6.22

**Table 3. Well Pad Name/Location/Lease**

Well Pad Name	Township	Range	QTR Section	Well	Lease Number
Bolt 01-35H	42N	72W	SESE Sec 35	Bolt 01-35H	WYW-143526

**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: Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP), 1985; amended in 2001, 2003, & 2011.  
DOI order 3310, 2010.

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 Record Of Decision (ROD) at p.16, 2001 RMP update at p. 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 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) ROD p. 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 Project 785, WY-070-EA10-238 approved October 18, 2010.
- EOG Project 808, WY-070-EA11-284, approved September 21, 2011.
- 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 (December 12, 2002, March 23, 2007)

**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 action is similar to the actions proposed in the approved project and the Bolt 01-35H well falls within disturbed areas which were approved for use in EOG Project 785.

The Bolt 01-35H well was analyzed in the EOG Project 785, WY-070-EA10-238.

EOG submitted this well project as Notice of Staking (NOS) at the time the analysis WY-070-EA10-238 and subsequently converted the NOS to an Application Permit to Drill (APD).

The well was deferred in the analysis because EOG needed to submit a certification stating that a surface use agreement is in place for oil and gas operations or obtain a 3814 bond submitted as a

liability for loss of crops and damage to tangible improvements in the interest of the private surface owner.

EOG submitted a certification stating that a surface use agreement is in place for oil and gas operations on May 21, 2010.

A 30 day posting is required prior to approval. The APD has been posted for the required 30 days and now can be approved.

- 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, the Bolt 01-35H well range of alternatives were analyzed in the EOG Project 785, WY-070-EA10-238, and similarly in EOG Project 808, WY-070-EA11-284.

- 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, the EA for EOG Project 785 (WY-070-EA10-238) analyzed foreseeable activity and did the PRB FEIS. Any new information or circumstances did not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action.

- 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, WY-070-EA10-238.

- 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 Project 785, WY-070-EA10-238, is adequate for the current proposed action as it occurs on the ground. BLM received no public comments from posting the APD for 30 days.

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jennifer Yu	Senior Regulatory Assistant	EOG Resources, Inc.
Heather Smith	NEPA Coordinator	EOG Resources, Inc.
Lee Isenberger	Surface Owner	Isenberger Land, LLC.
Meleah Corey	Natural Resource Specialist	BLM

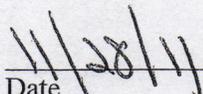
Name	Title	Organization
Scott Jawors	Wildlife Biologist	BLM
Jennifer Morton	Wildlife Biologist	BLM
Clint Crago	Archeologist	BLM
Buck Damone	Archeologist	BLM
Casey Freise	Natural Resource Specialist	BLM
John Kelley	Environmental and Planning Coordinator	BLM

Note: Refer to the EOG Project 785 EA, WY-070-EA10-238, 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.

  
 Buffalo Field Manager:

  
 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.