

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b><u>Document Section</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action .....	1
1.1.1 Need for the Proposed Action .....	1
1.1.2 Purpose of the Proposed Action .....	3
1.2 Conformance with Existing Land Use Plans .....	3
1.3 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, and Other Plans .....	4
2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES .....	5
2.1 The Proposed Action .....	5
2.1.1 Construction Activities .....	10
2.1.1.1 Access Roads .....	10
2.1.1.2 Well Locations .....	11
2.1.2 Drilling Operations .....	12
2.1.2.1 Drilling Fluids System .....	13
2.1.2.2 Casing and Cementing Operations .....	14
2.1.3 Completion and Evaluation Operations .....	15
2.1.4 Production Operations .....	15
2.1.5 Interim Reclamation for Production .....	16
2.1.6 Abandonment and Reclamation .....	17
2.1.7 Hazardous Materials .....	17
2.1.8 Field Camps .....	17
2.2 The No Action Alternative .....	18
3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT .....	19
3.1 Environmental Elements Considered with Minor Effects .....	19
3.1.1 Air Quality .....	20
3.1.2 Floodplains .....	20
3.1.3 Range Management .....	21
3.1.4 Recreation .....	21
3.1.5 Socio-Economics .....	21

**TABLE OF CONTENTS - Continued**

<b><u>Document Section</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
3.1.6 Vegetation .....	21
3.1.7 Water Resources .....	22
3.1.7.1 Ground Water Resources .....	22
3.1.7.2 Surface Water Resources .....	23
3.1.8 Wetland/Riparian Habitat .....	24
3.1.9 Visual Resources .....	24
3.2 General Setting of the Project Area .....	24
3.3 Existing Development in the Hornbuckle Field .....	25
3.4 Cultural Resources .....	26
3.5 Invasive Non-Native Species .....	27
3.6 Soils .....	28
3.7 Wildlife .....	29
3.7.1 Big Game Species .....	29
3.7.2 BLM Sensitive Species .....	31
3.7.3 Raptor Species .....	31
3.7.4 Threatened and Endangered Species .....	33
3.7.5 Migratory Bird Species .....	34
3.8 Environmental Justice .....	36
4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES .....	37
4.1 Introduction .....	37
4.2 Cultural Resources .....	37
4.2.1 The Proposed Action .....	38
4.2.2 The No Action Alternative .....	38
4.2.3 Mitigation and Monitoring .....	38
4.3 Invasive Non-Native Species .....	39
4.3.1 The Proposed Action .....	39
4.3.2 The No Action Alternative .....	39
4.3.3 Mitigation and Monitoring .....	40
4.4 Soils .....	40
4.4.1 The Proposed Action .....	40

**TABLE OF CONTENTS - Continued**

<b><u>Document Section</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
4.4.2 The No Action Alternative .....	42
4.4.3 Mitigation and Monitoring .....	42
4.5 Wildlife .....	43
4.5.1 The Proposed Action .....	44
4.5.1.1 Big Game Species .....	44
4.5.1.2 BLM Sensitive Species .....	45
4.5.1.3 Raptor Species .....	46
4.5.1.4 Threatened and Endangered Species .....	46
4.5.1.5 Migratory Bird Species .....	48
4.5.2 The No Action Alternative .....	49
4.5.3 Mitigation and Monitoring .....	49
4.6 Cumulative Impacts .....	49
4.6.1 Introduction .....	49
4.6.2 Cultural Resources .....	51
4.6.3 Invasive, Non-Native Species .....	51
4.6.4 Soils .....	51
4.6.5 Wildlife .....	52
4.7 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources .....	52
4.9 Short-Term Use of the Environment versus Long-Term Productivity .....	52
5.0 REFERENCES .....	53
6.0 ABBREVIATIONS .....	57

**LIST OF TABLES**

<b><u>Table Number</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Table 1.1	Major Federal, State and Local Permits and Approvals Required for the SWPC Horizontal Drilling Project Proposal .....	4
Table 2.1	Proposed Horizontal Sussex Fm Wells in the Hornbuckle Field .....	5

**LIST OF TABLES - Continued**

<b><u>Table Number</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Table 2.2	Proposed Access Roads to the Eight Proposed Horizontal Wells in the Hornbuckle Field .....	10
Table 2.3	Acres of Surface Disturbance Directly Associated with the Proposed SWPC Horizontal Drilling Program .....	12
Table 3.1	Critical Elements of the Human Environment .....	19
Table 3.2	Existing Water Wells within a One Mile Radius of the Eight Horizontal Wells Proposed in the Hornbuckle Field .....	23
Table 3.3	Producing Wells in the Hornbuckle Field .....	25
Table 3.4	Results of the Cultural Inventories Conducted for the Eight Horizontal Wells Proposed by SWPC in the Hornbuckle Field .....	27
Table 3.5	Invasive Non-Native Species (Noxious Weeds) .....	28
Table 3.6	Soil Mapping Units to be Impacted by the Proposed Action .....	29
Table 3.7	Summary of the Physical Characteristics of Individual Soil Mapping Units in the Hornbuckle Field Project Area .....	30
Table 3.8	Wyoming BLM Sensitive Species and Habitat Preferences .....	32
Table 3.9	List of Partners In Flight (PIF) Priority Bird Species Potentially Found Within the Hornbuckle Field Project Area .....	35
Table 4.1	Estimated Erosion Rates per Acre of Surface Disturbance Calculated Both With and Without the Application of Best Management Practices in Tons/Acre/Year .....	41
Table 4.2	Greater Sage Grouse Nesting and Brood-Rearing Habitat Suitability .....	45
Table 4.3	Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species and Their Potential Occurrence within the Hornbuckle Field APE .....	47
Table 4.4	Wells Drilled or Approved in the Hornbuckle Field in 2008 .....	50
Table 4.5	Existing Short-Term Disturbance in the Hornbuckle Field .....	50

**LIST OF FIGURES**

<b><u>Figure Number</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Figure 1.1	General Vicinity Map .....	2
Figure 2.1a	Horizontal Sussex Fm Wells Proposed by SWPC in the Hornbuckle Field <sup>1</sup> .....	6
Figure 2.1b	Horizontal Sussex Fm Wells Proposed by SWPC in the Hornbuckle Field <sup>2</sup> .....	7
Figure 2.1c	Horizontal Sussex Fm Wells Proposed by SWPC in the Hornbuckle Field <sup>3</sup> .....	8
Figure 2.1d	Horizontal Sussex Fm Wells Proposed by SWPC in the Hornbuckle Field <sup>4</sup> .....	9

1 Figure 2.1a shows the proposed HR Federal #44-20H, GH Federal #44-21H, GH Federal #24-22H and HR Federal #11-18H well locations

2 Figure 2.1b shows the proposed BR Federal #24-26H well location

3 Figure 2.1c shows the proposed BR Federal #44-4H and BR Federal #11-10H well locations

4 Figure 2.1d shows the proposed DCR #34-21H well location