

**DECISION RECORD
FOR
NORTH DUTCH JOHN 2D SEISMIC PROJECT
Case #: WYW167741
EA #: WY-040-EA10-110**

Summary

Azalea Oil Company (Azalea) proposes to conduct geophysical operations consisting of a 2-dimensional (2D) seismic survey for oil and gas resources in Sweetwater County, Wyoming. Azalea owns 100% interest in oil and gas leases under sections 1, 2, 3, 10, & 11 T12N-R107W.

Decision

Based upon the analysis of the potential environmental impacts described in the North Dutch John 2D Seismic Project Environmental Assessment and supporting documents in the case file, it is my decision to approve the Proposed Action to conduct 2D seismic activities.

1. **Compliance with applicable laws:** The BLM is authorized to approve geophysical surveys on BLM-administered public lands pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) of February 25, 1920, as amended, and the Code of Federal Regulations 43 CFR Part 3150. Other relevant guidance includes the BLM Handbook H-3150 (Rel. 3-289 6/7/94). The Proposed Action would allow the leaseholder to explore for oil and gas resources on their federal oil and gas leases W-159186, W-161414, and W-161879.
2. **Selected Alternative:** The Proposed Action includes: 1) surveying in shot hole and receiver locations, 2) drilling (using a buggy drill) and loading of shot holes and 3) laying out the receiver lines and geophones, detonating the charges, and recording the data. The Proposed Action has been designed to avoid or minimize environmental impacts to the extent feasible. These design features, such as standard operating procedures, stipulations, and best management practices that Azalea has voluntarily agreed to can be found in Section 2.1.2 of the attached EA. Additional mitigation measures that will be implemented for the proposed action are identified in Sections 4.8.4 (Special Status Plants), 4.10.4 (Cultural Resources), 4.11.4 (Recreation), and 4.14.4 (Range Resources) and the identified Conditions of Approval are included as Appendix D of the EA.
3. **FONSI:** I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan, including the objectives of the Sugarloaf Basin Management Area. I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the analysis of potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the design features, mitigation measures, and conditions of approval as described in the EA will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. It is my decision to implement the proposed action.

4. **Public Involvement.** A 30-day public scoping period was conducted between December 17, 2009 and January 16, 2010. During the scoping period, the RSFO received comments from the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, Greater Little Mountain Coalition, Trout Unlimited, and Wyoming Wildlife Federation concerning potential impacts to a variety of resources from future oil and gas development and a preference for the use of heli-portable drills instead of buggy-mounted drills. In addition to the scoping period, the prepared EA was made available for a 30-day public review from May 25 through June 25, 2010. During the public review period, the RSFO received comment letters from 13 organizations and individuals. Public comments and associated responses are available in Appendix F of the EA.
5. **Rationale for Alternative Selected.** The Proposed Action with the design features, mitigation measures, and Conditions of Approval as described in the EA was selected because it is in compliance with the Green River RMP and the BLM has determined it will not have any significant impacts on the human environment. The Proposed Action has been designed to avoid or minimize environmental impacts to the extent feasible and will require less manpower; fewer transport vehicles; contribute less noise pollution, and have less likelihood of delays in fieldwork than Alternative 2. Additionally, the proponent has valid and existing lease rights, including the right to explore for oil and gas.
6. **Appeal Procedures.**

Under BLM regulation, this decision is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3165. Any request for administrative review of this decision must include the information required under 43 CFR 3165.3(b), including all supporting documentation. Such a request must be filed in writing with the State Director (920), Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, within 20 business days of the date such notice of decision was received or considered to have been received. This decision will be considered to have been received seven (7) business days from the date it is mailed.

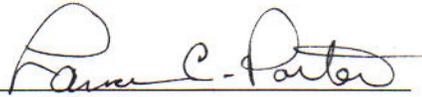
The decision of the State Director may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR (CFR) 3150.2, 43 CFR 3165.4, and 43 CFR Part 4. Each adverse party to any such appeal must be provided with all documentation in accordance with 43 CFR 4.413.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,

3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.



Lance Porter
Field Manager
Rock Springs Field Office

16 July 2010
Date