

## PECOS DISTRICT CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

<b>OPERATOR'S NAME:</b>	GMT Exploration Company, LLC.
<b>LEASE NO.:</b>	NMNM-77090
<b>WELL NAME &amp; NO.:</b>	Romeo Federal Com 1H
<b>SURFACE HOLE FOOTAGE:</b>	0400' FNL & 0660' FWL
<b>BOTTOM HOLE FOOTAGE:</b>	0330' FSL & 0660' FWL
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Section 22, T. 24 S., R 34 E., NMPM
<b>COUNTY:</b>	Lea County, New Mexico

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Standard Conditions of Approval (COA) apply to this APD. If any deviations to these standards exist or special COAs are required, the section with the deviation or requirement will be checked below.

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## **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The approval of the Application For Permit To Drill (APD) is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations: 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3160, the lease terms, Onshore Oil and Gas Orders, Notices To Lessees, New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) Rules, National Historical Preservation Act As Amended, and instructions and orders of the Authorized Officer. Any request for a variance shall be submitted to the Authorized Officer on Form 3160-5, Sundry Notices and Report on Wells.

## **II. PERMIT EXPIRATION**

If the permit terminates prior to drilling and drilling cannot be commenced within 60 days after expiration, an operator is required to submit Form 3160-5, Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells, requesting surface reclamation requirements for any surface disturbance. However, if the operator will be able to initiate drilling within 60 days after the expiration of the permit, the operator must have set the conductor pipe in order to allow for an extension of 60 days beyond the expiration date of the APD. (Filing of a Sundry Notice is required for this 60 day extension.)

## **III. ARCHAEOLOGICAL, PALEONTOLOGY & HISTORICAL SITES**

Any cultural and/or paleontological resource discovered by the operator or by any person working on the operator's behalf shall immediately report such findings to the Authorized Officer. The operator is fully accountable for the actions of their contractors and subcontractors. The operator shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer. An evaluation of the discovery shall be made by the Authorized Officer to determine the appropriate actions that shall be required to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values of the discovery. The operator shall be held responsible for the cost of the proper mitigation measures that the Authorized Officer assesses after consultation with the operator on the evaluation and decisions of the discovery. Any unauthorized collection or disturbance of cultural or paleontological resources may result in a shutdown order by the Authorized Officer.

## **IV. NOXIOUS WEEDS**

The operator shall be held responsible if noxious weeds become established within the areas of operations. Weed control shall be required on the disturbed land where noxious weeds exist, which includes the roads, pads, associated pipeline corridor, and adjacent land affected by the establishment of weeds due to this action. The operator shall consult with the Authorized Officer for acceptable weed control methods, which include following EPA and BLM requirements and policies.



## V. SPECIAL REQUIREMENT(S)

### **Communitization Agreement**

A Communitization Agreement covering the acreage dedicated to this well must be filed for approval with the BLM. The effective date of the agreement shall be prior to any sales. In addition, the well sign shall include the surface and bottom hole lease numbers. If the Communitization Agreement number is known, it shall also be on the sign. If not, it shall be placed on the sign when the sign is replaced.

### **Timing Limitation Stipulation / Condition of Approval for lesser prairie-chicken:**

Oil and gas activities including 3-D geophysical exploration, and drilling will not be allowed in lesser prairie-chicken habitat during the period from March 1st through June 15th annually. During that period, other activities that produce noise or involve human activity, such as the maintenance of oil and gas facilities, pipeline, road, and well pad construction, will be allowed except between 3:00 am and 9:00 am. The 3:00 am to 9:00 am restriction will not apply to normal, around-the-clock operations, such as venting, flaring, or pumping, which do not require a human presence during this period. Additionally, no new drilling will be allowed within up to 200 meters of leks known at the time of permitting. Normal vehicle use on existing roads will not be restricted. Exhaust noise from pump jack engines must be muffled or otherwise controlled so as not to exceed 75 db measured at 30 feet from the source of the noise.

**Below Ground-level Abandoned Well Marker to avoid raptor perching:** Upon the plugging and subsequent abandonment of the well, the well marker will be installed at ground level on a plate containing the pertinent information for the plugged well. For more installation details, contact the Carlsbad Field Office at 575-234-5972.

Power lines shall be constructed and designed in accordance to standards outlined in "Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power lines: The State of the Art in 2006" Edison Electric Institute, APLIC, and the California Energy Commission 2006. The holder shall assume the burden and expense of proving that pole designs not shown in the above publication deter raptor perching, roosting, and nesting. Such proof shall be provided by a raptor expert approved by the Authorized Officer. The BLM reserves the right to require modification or additions to all power line structures placed on this right-of-way, should they be necessary to ensure the safety of large perching birds. The holder without liability or expense shall make such modifications and/or additions to the United States.

## **PRODUCED WATER FRAC POND CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

A copy of the application (APD, Grant, or Sundry Notice) and attachments, including stipulations, survey plat and diagram, will be on location during construction. BLM personnel may request to see a copy of your permit during construction to ensure compliance with all conditions of approval. Construction will cease until the permit is on location.

Holder agrees to comply with the following conditions of approval to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer:

1. The Holder shall indemnify the United States against any liability for damage to life or property arising from the occupancy or use of public lands under this permit.
2. The Holder shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated.

3. Required Standard Conditions of Approval:

a. **Notification**

Contact the Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist, Jim Amos, at 575-234-5909 at least 24 hours prior to starting construction.

b. **Contamination**

The operator will preclude releases of oil into open ponds. The operator must remove any accumulation of oil, condensate, or contaminant in a pond within 48 hours of discovery.

c. **Authorized Disturbance**

Confine all construction and maintenance activity to the approved authorized area applied for in the application.

d. **Liner**

The pond must have at least two 60 mil liners. The pond liner shall be maintained in good working condition, with no tears or holes, until the pond is closed. No trash, pipe, barrels, wireline, or metal equipment is permitted in the pond.

e. **Freeboard**

Ponds shall be constructed to preclude the accumulation of precipitation runoff and maintain a minimum of 2 feet of freeboard between the maximum fluid level and the lowest point of containment at all times. If pond fluids threaten to rise to a level allowing less than 2 feet of freeboard, steps shall immediately be taken to prevent introduction of additional fluids until sufficient pond capacity has been restored through fluid removal or an alternative containment method is approved and installed.

f. **Monitor:**

Personnel or a monitor must be onsite when the pond is in use.

g. **Escape Ramps**



The operator will construct and maintain frac ponds to prevent livestock, wildlife, and humans from becoming entrapped. At a minimum, the operator will construct and maintain escape ramps, ladders, or other methods of avian and terrestrial wildlife escape in frac ponds. Escape ramps must be installed at every corner of the frac pond and in the center of each side if that side exceeds 100 feet in length. Escape ramps must be in contact with the side of the frac pond, bottom of the frac pond, and the top of the frac pond berm. Escape ramps cannot be made of metal and cannot be steeper than a 3:1 slope (Horizontal Distance: Vertical Distance) or 30% slope. (*Examples of escape ramps: 12" wide wooden planks wrapped in matting, felt lining, etc.*)

h. **Exclosure Netting**

The operator will prevent humans, wildlife (including avian wildlife), and livestock access to fluid ponds that contain or have potential to contain salinity sufficient to cause harm to wildlife or livestock, hydrocarbons, or Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976-exempt hazardous substances. At a minimum, the operator will install approved netting over ponds containing fluid in accordance with the requirements below. (*Note: The BLM does not approve of the use of flagging, strobe lights, metal reflectors, or noise makers as techniques for deterring wildlife.*)

Minimum Netting Requirements - The operator will:

- Construct a rigid structure made of steel tubing or wooden posts with cable strung across the pond at no more than seven (7) foot intervals along the X- and Y-axes to form a grid of 7 foot squares.
- Suspend netting a minimum of 2 feet above the fluid surface.
- Use a maximum netting mesh size of 1 ½ inches to exclude most birds.
- Cover the top and all sides of the netting support frame with netting and secure the netting at the ground surface around the entire pond to prevent wildlife entry at the netting edges. (*Note: Hog wire panels or other wire mesh panels or fencing used on the sides of the netting support frame is ineffective in excluding small wildlife and birds unless covered by the smaller mesh netting.*)
- Installation of the net must commence immediately after high activity operations cease. High activity operations include drilling operations and fracturing operations.
- Monitor and maintain the netting sufficiently to ensure the netting is functioning as intended, has not entrapped wildlife, and is free of holes and gaps greater than 1 ½ inches.
- Flagging or tags must be installed on the net in the center of the pond.

i. **Mineral Material from Excavation**

Mineral materials extracted during construction of the frac pond will be stored on-location and/or used for constructing the frac pond.



j. **Topsoil Stockpile**

The operator shall strip at least the top 6 inches of soil (root zone) from the entire frac pond area and stockpile the topsoil approximately 25 feet outside the bermed perimeter of the pond in a low profile manner, reasonably protected from wind and water erosion. Topsoil shall not be used for constructing the produced water pond. The topsoil will be used for final reclamation purposes only.

k. **Frac Pond Fence**

The operator will install and maintain enclosure fencing on all sides of the frac pond to prevent access to public, livestock, and large forms of wildlife. The fence shall be installed at the base of the berm and never on top of the berm.

Construction of the fence shall consist of steel and/or wooden posts set firmly into natural ground. Hog panel or chain-link fencing must be used as the fence and tied securely to the fence posts. Barbed-wire fencing or electric fences shall not be used. The fence height shall not be shorter than six (6) feet. The erected fence shall be maintained in adequate condition until the frac pond is reclaimed.

l. **Erosion Prevention**

Install earthen erosion-control structures as are suitable for the specific terrain and soil conditions.

m. **Reclamation Start**

- I. Reclamation efforts will commence immediately after the frac pond is no longer needed for the purpose of completing wells.
- II. Within 3 months of completion of frac operations on associated wells, all earthwork and final reclamation must be completed. This includes reclaiming and/or removal of:
  - i. Any roads approved for use with the pond
  - ii. Surface water lines
  - iii. Tanks, pumps, fencing etc.

**Requirements for Operations and Final Reclamation:**

4. If, during any phase of the construction, operation, maintenance, or termination of the frac pond, any pollutant should be released from the contaminated frac pond, the control and total removal, disposal, and cleaning up of such pollutant, wherever found, shall be the responsibility of holder, regardless of fault.

Upon failure of holder to control, dispose of, or clean up such discharge, or to repair all damages resulting there-from, the Authorized Officer may take such measures as he deems necessary to control and clean up the discharge and restore the area, including where appropriate, the aquatic environment and fish and wildlife habitats, at the full expense of the holder. Such action by the Authorized Officer shall not relieve holder of any responsibility as provided herein.

5. Any cultural and/or paleontological resources (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf shall be immediately

reported to the Authorized Officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the Authorized Officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the holder.

6. The operator shall be held responsible if noxious weeds become established within the areas of operations. Weed control shall be required on the disturbed land where noxious weeds exist, which includes the roads, pads, associated pipeline corridor, and adjacent land affected by the establishment of weeds due to this action. The operator shall consult with the Authorized Officer for acceptable weed control methods, which include following EPA and BLM requirements and policies.

7. After all disturbed areas have been satisfactorily contoured and prepared for seeding the location needs to be revegetated with the seed mixture provided. Seeding may need to be repeated until revegetation is successful. Operators shall contact Jim Amos, Supervisor, Environmental Protection – (575)234-5909, **prior** to beginning surface reclamation operations.

8. Seeding is required: Use the following seed mix.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> seed mixture 1         | <input type="checkbox"/> seed mixture 3      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> seed mixture 2         | <input type="checkbox"/> seed mixture 4      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LPC mixture | <input type="checkbox"/> Aplomado Falcon mix |

#### **Temporary Produced Water CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

(Pipelines from Pond to Wells)

**Pipelines must follow within 10 feet of existing oil and gas roads. The applicant must get like approval from the state. The applicant is responsible for cleanup of any spills. The primary objective is to not allow produced water to reach the ground.**

Maintain a copy of your temporary permit and your approved route diagram on location during installation and operations. BLM personnel may request to see a copy of your permit during installation or operations to ensure compliance with all conditions of approval. The project will cease until the permit is on location.



Holder agrees to comply with the following conditions of approval to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer:

1. The Holder shall indemnify the United States against any liability for damage to life or property arising from the occupancy or use of public lands under this permit.

2. Standard Conditions of Approval:

- Pipelines must be removed within 30-45 days from this route.
- Pipelines and all connection points must be leak proof. The company must prevent any amount of produced water from reaching the ground. Small drips are not allowed to touch the ground.
- Pipelines and all connection points must be pressure-tested with freshwater prior to use with produced water.
- Pipelines flowing from the frac water holding area to the target well(s) will be laid along existing oil and gas maintained roads (within 5 to 10 feet of roadway).
- Areas impacted (disturbed greater than vegetation compaction) by your project will require full reclamation.
- Pipelines will be empty before disassembly. Freshwater must be flowed through the pipeline to removal all the produced water prior to disassembly. Flow water back to the designated holding area.
- Do not restrict traffic on existing roads. Place ramps where needed on existing access roads.
- Pipe will be placed not farther than 5 to 10 feet off the edge of existing oil and gas maintained roads or other maintained roads.
- All pumps and other equipment must be placed on existing surfaced areas (pads, roads, etc.).
- All equipment associated with transporting produced water must be leak proof.
- The produced water lines and equipment would need to be checked and monitored continuously to ensure a leak is not occurring. If a leak is discovered (no matter how small), it must be corrected immediately, even if it would require ceasing the fracturing operation. Non-earthen secondary containments should be put in place if a small leak occurs.
- Any spills or leaks of produced water would need to be reported as soon as possibly known to the authorized officer. Any spills would need to be addressed as quickly as possible, and reclamation of the disturbance will need to be discussed with the authorized officer.

3. Any cultural and/or paleontological resources (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf shall be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer.



## **VI. CONSTRUCTION**

### **A. NOTIFICATION**

The BLM shall administer compliance and monitor construction of the access road and well pad. Notify the Carlsbad Field Office at (575) 234-5909 at least 3 working days prior to commencing construction of the access road and/or well pad.

When construction operations are being conducted on this well, the operator shall have the approved APD and Conditions of Approval (COA) on the well site and they shall be made available upon request by the Authorized Officer.

### **B. TOPSOIL**

The operator shall strip the top portion of the soil (root zone) from the entire well pad area and stockpile the topsoil along the edge of the well pad as depicted in the APD. The root zone is typically six (6) inches in depth. All the stockpiled topsoil will be redistributed over the interim reclamation areas. Topsoil shall not be used for berming the pad or facilities. For final reclamation, the topsoil shall be spread over the entire pad area for seeding preparation.

Other subsoil (below six inches) stockpiles must be completely segregated from the topsoil stockpile. Large rocks or subsoil clods (not evident in the surrounding terrain) must be buried within the approved area for interim and final reclamation.

### **C. CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM**

Tanks are required for drilling operations: No Pits.

The operator shall properly dispose of drilling contents at an authorized disposal site.

### **D. FEDERAL MINERAL MATERIALS PIT**

Payment shall be made to the BLM prior to removal of any federal mineral materials. Call the Carlsbad Field Office at (575) 234-5972.

### **E. WELL PAD SURFACING**

Surfacing of the well pad is not required.

If the operator elects to surface the well pad, the surfacing material may be required to be removed at the time of reclamation. The well pad shall be constructed in a manner which creates the smallest possible surface disturbance, consistent with safety and operational needs.

## **F. EXCLOSURE FENCING (CELLARS & PITS)**

### **Exclosure Fencing**

The operator will install and maintain exclosure fencing for all open well cellars to prevent access to public, livestock, and large forms of wildlife before and after drilling operations until the pit is free of fluids and the operator initiates backfilling. (For examples of exclosure fencing design, refer to BLM's Oil and Gas Gold Book, Exclosure Fence Illustrations, Figure 1, Page 18.)

## **G. ON LEASE ACCESS ROADS**

### **Road Width**

The access road shall have a driving surface that creates the smallest possible surface disturbance and does not exceed fourteen (14) feet in width. The maximum width of surface disturbance, when constructing the access road, shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet.

### **Surfacing**

Surfacing material is not required on the new access road driving surface. If the operator elects to surface the new access road or pad, the surfacing material may be required to be removed at the time of reclamation.

Where possible, no improvements should be made on the unsurfaced access road other than to remove vegetation as necessary, road irregularities, safety issues, or to fill low areas that may sustain standing water.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to require surfacing of any portion of the access road at any time deemed necessary. Surfacing may be required in the event the road deteriorates, erodes, road traffic increases, or it is determined to be beneficial for future field development. The surfacing depth and type of material will be determined at the time of notification.

### **Crowning**

Crowning shall be done on the access road driving surface. The road crown shall have a grade of approximately 2% (i.e., a 1" crown on a 14' wide road). The road shall conform to Figure 1; cross section and plans for typical road construction.

### **Ditching**

Ditching shall be required on both sides of the road.

### **Turnouts**

Vehicle turnouts shall be constructed on the road. Turnouts shall be intervisible with interval spacing distance less than 1000 feet. Turnouts shall conform to Figure 1; cross section and plans for typical road construction.

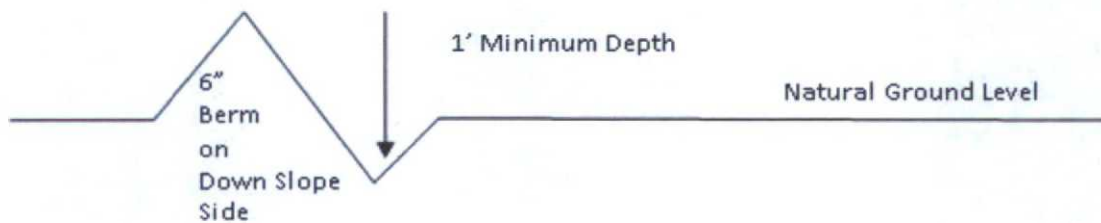


### **Drainage**

Drainage control systems shall be constructed on the entire length of road (e.g. ditches, sidehill outslowing and insloping, lead-off ditches, culvert installation, and low water crossings).

A typical lead-off ditch has a minimum depth of 1 foot below and a berm of 6 inches above natural ground level. The berm shall be on the down-slope side of the lead-off ditch.

#### **Cross Section of a Typical Lead-off Ditch**



All lead-off ditches shall be graded to drain water with a 1 percent minimum to 3 percent maximum ditch slope. The spacing interval are variable for lead-off ditches and shall be determined according to the formula for spacing intervals of lead-off ditches, but may be amended depending upon existing soil types and centerline road slope (in %);

#### **Formula for Spacing Interval of Lead-off Ditches**

Example - On a 4% road slope that is 400 feet long, the water flow shall drain water into a lead-off ditch. Spacing interval shall be determined by the following formula:

$$400 \text{ foot road with } 4\% \text{ road slope: } \frac{400'}{4\%} + 100' = 200' \text{ lead-off ditch interval}$$

### **Cattleguards**

An appropriately sized cattleguard sufficient to carry out the project shall be installed and maintained at fence/road crossings. Any existing cattleguards on the access road route shall be repaired or replaced if they are damaged or have deteriorated beyond practical use. The operator shall be responsible for the condition of the existing cattleguards that are in place and are utilized during lease operations.

### **Fence Requirement**

Where entry is granted across a fence line, the fence shall be braced and tied off on both sides of the passageway prior to cutting. The operator shall notify the private surface landowner or the grazing allotment holder prior to crossing any fences.

### **Public Access**

Public access on this road shall not be restricted by the operator without specific written approval granted by the Authorized Officer.

### Construction Steps

1. Salvage topsoil
2. Construct road

3. Redistribute topsoil
4. Revegetate slopes

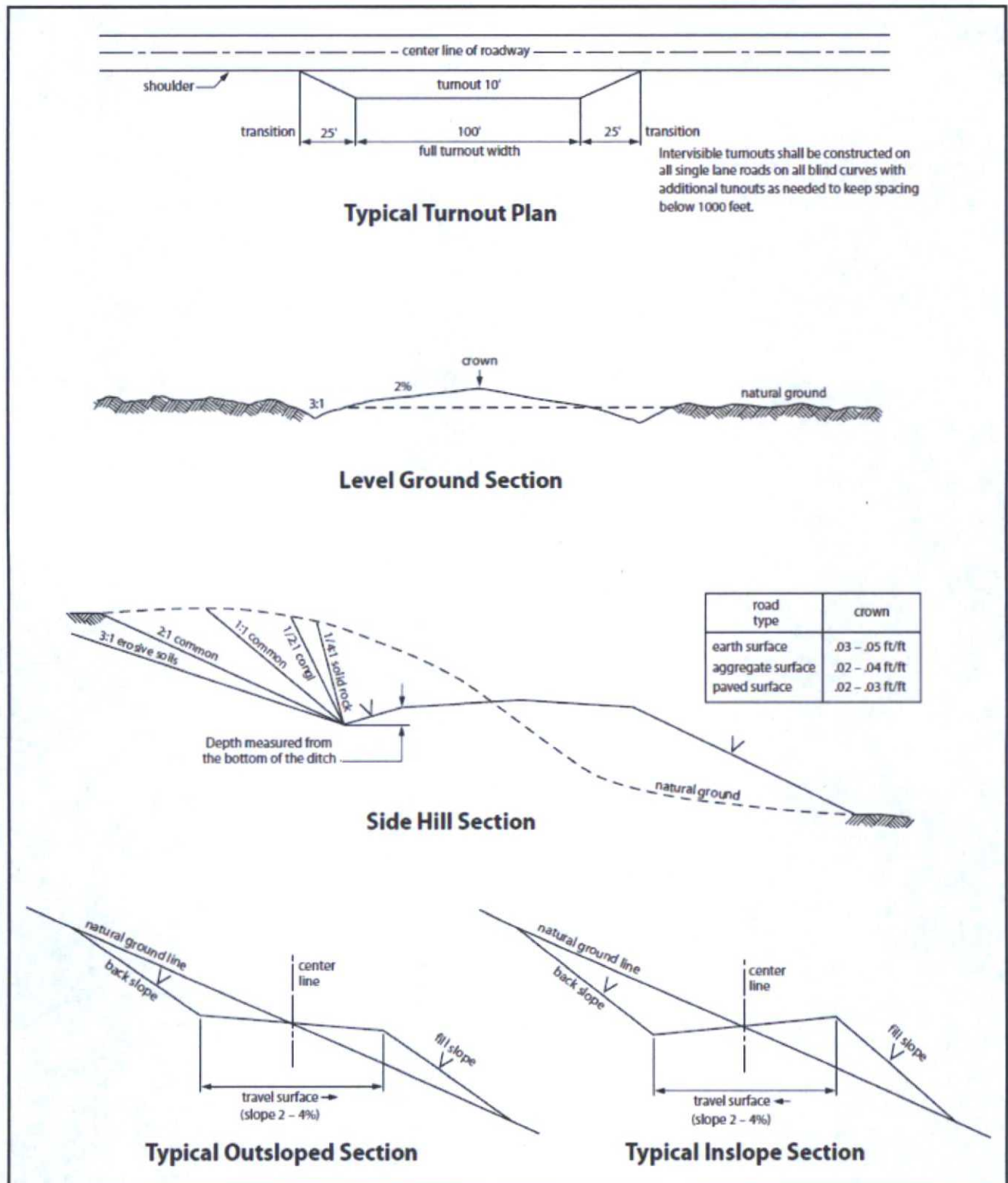


Figure 1. Cross-sections and plans for typical road sections representative of BLM resource or FS local and higher-class roads.



## VII. DRILLING

### A. DRILLING OPERATIONS REQUIREMENTS

The BLM is to be notified in advance for a representative to witness:

- a. Spudding well (minimum of 24 hours)
- b. Setting and/or Cementing of all casing strings (minimum of 4 hours)
- c. BOPE tests (minimum of 4 hours)

☒ **Lea County**

Call the Hobbs Field Station, 414 West Taylor, Hobbs NM 88240,  
(575) 393-3612

1. **Hydrogen Sulfide has been reported as a hazard in formations deeper than the proposed depth. It is recommended that monitoring equipment be onsite for potential Hydrogen Sulfide. If Hydrogen Sulfide is encountered, report measurements and formations to the BLM.**
2. Unless the production casing has been run and cemented or the well has been properly plugged, the drilling rig shall not be removed from over the hole without prior approval. **If the drilling rig is removed without approval – an Incident of Non-Compliance will be written and will be a “Major” violation.**
3. Floor controls are required for 3M or Greater systems. These controls will be on the rig floor, unobstructed, readily accessible to the driller and will be operational at all times during drilling and/or completion activities. Rig floor is defined as the area immediately around the rotary table; the area immediately above the substructure on which the draw works is located, this does not include the dog house or stairway area.
4. **The record of the drilling rate along with the GR/N well log run from TD to surface (horizontal well – vertical portion of hole) shall be submitted to the BLM office as well as all other logs run on the borehole 30 days from completion. If available, a digital copy of the logs is to be submitted in addition to the paper copies. The Rustler top and top and bottom of Salt are to be recorded on the Completion Report.**

## **B. CASING**

Changes to the approved APD casing program need prior approval if the items substituted are of lesser grade or different casing size or are Non-API. The Operator can exchange the components of the proposal with that of superior strength (i.e. changing from J-55 to N-80, or from 36# to 40#). Changes to the approved cement program need prior approval if the altered cement plan has less volume or strength or if the changes are substantial (i.e. Multistage tool, ECP, etc.). The initial wellhead installed on the well will remain on the well with spools used as needed.

Centralizers required on surface casing per Onshore Order 2.III.B.1.f.

### **Wait on cement (WOC) for Water Basin:**

After cementing but before commencing any tests, the casing string shall stand cemented under pressure until both of the following conditions have been met: 1) cement reaches a minimum compressive strength of 500 psi at the shoe, 2) until cement has been in place at least 8 hours. WOC time will be recorded in the driller's log. See individual casing strings for details regarding lead cement slurry requirements.

No pea gravel permitted for remedial or fall back remedial without prior authorization from the BLM engineer.

Possibility of water flows in the Salado and Castile.

Possibility of lost circulation in the Red Beds, Rustler, and Delaware.

Abnormal pressures may be encountered upon penetrating the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bone Spring Sandstone and all subsequent formations.

1. The 13 3/8 inch surface casing shall be set at approximately 1280 feet (a minimum of 25 feet into the Rustler Anhydrite and above the salt) and cemented to the surface. **If salt is encountered, set casing at least 25 feet above the salt.**
  - a. If cement does not circulate to the surface, the appropriate BLM office shall be notified and a temperature survey utilizing an electronic type temperature survey with surface log readout will be used or a cement bond log shall be run to verify the top of the cement. Temperature survey will be run a minimum of six hours after pumping cement and ideally between 8-10 hours after completing the cement job.
  - b. **Wait on cement (WOC) time for a primary cement job is to include the lead cement slurry.**



- c. Wait on cement (WOC) time for a remedial job will be a minimum of 4 hours after bringing cement to surface or 500 pounds compressive strength, whichever is greater.
- d. If cement falls back, remedial cementing will be done prior to drilling out that string.

**Formation below the 13 3/8" shoe to be tested according to Onshore Order 2.III.B.1.i. Test to be done as a mud equivalency test using the mud weight necessary for the pore pressure of the formation below the shoe and the mud weight for the bottom of the hole. Report results to BLM office.**

2. The minimum required fill of cement behind the 8 5/8 inch intermediate casing is:

☒ Cement to surface. If cement does not circulate see B.1.a, c-d above.

**Formation below the 8-5/8" shoe to be tested according to Onshore Order 2.III.B.1.i. Test to be done as a mud equivalency test using the mud weight necessary for the pore pressure of the formation below the shoe (not the mud weight required to prevent dissolving the salt formation) and the mud weight for the bottom of the hole. Report results to BLM office.**

**Centralizers required on horizontal leg, must be type for horizontal service and a minimum of one every other joint.**

3. The minimum required fill of cement behind the 5-1/2 inch production casing is:

☒ Cement should tie-back at least 200 feet into previous casing string. Operator shall provide method of verification. **Excess calculates to 23% - Additional cement may be required.**

4. If hardband drill pipe is rotated inside casing, returns will be monitored for metal. If metal is found in samples, drill pipe will be pulled and rubber protectors which have a larger diameter than the tool joints of the drill pipe will be installed prior to continuing drilling operations.

## **C. PRESSURE CONTROL**

1. All blowout preventer (BOP) and related equipment (BOPE) shall comply with well control requirements as described in Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 2 and API 53.

2. Minimum working pressure of the blowout preventer (BOP) and related equipment (BOPE) required for drilling below the surface casing shoe shall be **5000 (5M) psi. 5M system requires an HCR valve, remote kill line and annular to match. The remote kill line is to be installed prior to testing the system and tested to stack pressure.**
3. The appropriate BLM office shall be notified a minimum of 4 hours in advance for a representative to witness the tests.
  - a. In a water basin, for all casing strings utilizing slips, these are to be set as soon as the crew and rig are ready and any fallback cement remediation has been done. The casing cut-off and BOP installation can be initiated four hours after installing the slips, which will be approximately six hours after bumping the plug. For those casing strings not using slips, the minimum wait time before cut-off is eight hours after bumping the plug. BOP/BOPE testing can begin after cut-off or once cement reaches 500 psi compressive strength (including lead when specified), whichever is greater. However, if the float does not hold, cut-off cannot be initiated until cement reaches 500 psi compressive strength (including lead when specified).
  - b. The tests shall be done by an independent service company utilizing a test plug **not a cup or J-packer.**
  - c. The test shall be run on a 5000 psi chart for a 2-3M BOP/BOP, on a 10000 psi chart for a 5M BOP/BOPE and on a 15000 psi chart for a 10M BOP/BOPE. If a linear chart is used, it shall be a one hour chart. A circular chart shall have a maximum 2 hour clock. If a twelve hour or twenty-four hour chart is used, tester shall make a notation that it is run with a two hour clock.
  - d. The results of the test shall be reported to the appropriate BLM office.
  - e. All tests are required to be recorded on a calibrated test chart. **A copy of the BOP/BOPE test chart and a copy of independent service company test will be submitted to the appropriate BLM office.**
  - f. The BOP/BOPE test shall include a low pressure test from 250 to 300 psi. The test will be held for a minimum of 10 minutes if test is done with a test plug and 30 minutes without a test plug. This test shall be performed prior to the test at full stack pressure.

#### **D. DRILL STEM TEST**

If drill stem tests are performed, Onshore Order 2.III.D shall be followed.



#### **E. WASTE MATERIAL AND FLUIDS**

All waste (i.e. drilling fluids, trash, salts, chemicals, sewage, gray water, etc.) created as a result of drilling operations and completion operations shall be safely contained and disposed of properly at a waste disposal facility. No waste material or fluid shall be disposed of on the well location or surrounding area.

Porto-johns and trash containers will be on-location during fracturing operations or any other crew-intensive operations.

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## **VIII. PRODUCTION (POST DRILLING)**

### **A. WELL STRUCTURES & FACILITIES**

#### **Placement of Production Facilities**

Production facilities should be placed on the well pad to allow for maximum interim recontouring and revegetation of the well location.

#### **Exclosure Netting (Open-top Tanks)**

Immediately following active drilling or completion operations, the operator will take actions necessary to prevent wildlife and livestock access, including avian wildlife, to all open-topped tanks that contain or have the potential to contain salinity sufficient to cause harm to wildlife or livestock, hydrocarbons, or Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976-exempt hazardous substances. At a minimum, the operator will net, screen, or cover open-topped tanks to exclude wildlife and livestock and prevent mortality. If the operator uses netting, the operator will cover and secure the open portion of the tank to prevent wildlife entry. The operator will net, screen, or cover the tanks until the operator removes the tanks from the location or the tanks no longer contain substances that could be harmful to wildlife or livestock. Use a maximum netting mesh size of 1 ½ inches. The netting must not be in contact with fluids and must not have holes or gaps.

#### **Chemical and Fuel Secondary Containment and Exclosure Screening**

The operator will prevent all hazardous, poisonous, flammable, and toxic substances from coming into contact with soil and water. At a minimum, the operator will install and maintain an impervious secondary containment system for any tank or barrel containing hazardous, poisonous, flammable, or toxic substances sufficient to contain the contents of the tank or barrel and any drips, leaks, and anticipated precipitation. The operator will dispose of fluids within the containment system that do not meet applicable state or U. S. Environmental Protection Agency livestock water standards in accordance with state law; the operator must not drain the fluids to the soil or ground. The operator will design, construct, and maintain all secondary containment systems to prevent wildlife and livestock exposure to harmful substances. At a minimum, the operator will install effective wildlife and livestock exclosure systems such as fencing, netting, expanded metal mesh, lids, and grate covers. Use a maximum netting mesh size of 1 ½ inches.

#### **Open-Vent Exhaust Stack Exclosures**

The operator will construct, modify, equip, and maintain all open-vent exhaust stacks on production equipment to prevent birds and bats from entering, and to discourage perching, roosting, and nesting. (*Recommended exclosure structures on open-vent exhaust stacks are in the shape of a cone.*) Production equipment includes, but may not be limited to, tanks, heater-treaters, separators, dehydrators, flare stacks, in-line units, and compressor mufflers.

#### **Containment Structures**

Proposed production facilities such as storage tanks and other vessels will have a secondary containment structure that is constructed to hold the capacity of 1.5 times the



largest tank, plus freeboard to account for precipitation, unless more stringent protective requirements are deemed necessary.

#### **Painting Requirement**

All above-ground structures including meter housing that are not subject to safety requirements shall be painted a flat non-reflective paint color, **Shale Green** from the BLM Standard Environmental Color Chart (CC-001: June 2008).

### **B. PIPELINES**

#### **BURIED PIPELINE STIPULATIONS**

A copy of the application (Grant, APD, or Sundry Notice) and attachments, including conditions of approval, survey plat and/or map, will be on location during construction. BLM personnel may request to you a copy of your permit during construction to ensure compliance with all stipulations.

Holder agrees to comply with the following stipulations to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer:

1. The Holder shall indemnify the United States against any liability for damage to life or property arising from the occupancy or use of public lands under this grant.
2. The Holder shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the holder shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 as amended, 15 USC 2601 et seq. (1982) with regards to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.
3. The holder agrees to indemnify the United States against any liability arising from the release of any hazardous substance or hazardous waste (as these terms are defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq. or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 6901, et seq.) on the Right-of-Way (unless the release or threatened release is wholly unrelated to the Right-of-Way holder's activity on the Right-of-Way), or resulting from the activity of the Right-of-Way holder on the Right-of-Way. This agreement applies without regard to whether a release is caused by the holder, its agent, or unrelated third parties.



4. If, during any phase of the construction, operation, maintenance, or termination of the pipeline, any oil or other pollutant should be discharged from the pipeline system, impacting Federal lands, the control and total removal, disposal, and cleaning up of such oil or other pollutant, wherever found, shall be the responsibility of holder, regardless of fault. Upon failure of holder to control, dispose of, or clean up such discharge on or affecting Federal lands, or to repair all damages resulting therefrom, on the Federal lands, the Authorized Officer may take such measures as he deems necessary to control and clean up the discharge and restore the area, including where appropriate, the aquatic environment and fish and wildlife habitats, at the full expense of the holder. Such action by the Authorized Officer shall not relieve holder of any responsibility as provided herein.

5. All construction and maintenance activity will be confined to the authorized right-of-way.

6. The pipeline will be buried with a minimum cover of 36 inches between the top of the pipe and ground level.

7. The maximum allowable disturbance for construction in this right-of-way will be 20 feet:

- Blading of vegetation within the right-of-way will be allowed: maximum width of blading operations will not exceed 20 feet. The trench is included in this area. (*Blading is defined as the complete removal of brush and ground vegetation.*)
- Clearing of brush species within the right-of-way will be allowed: maximum width of clearing operations will not exceed 20 feet. The trench and bladed area are included in this area. (*Clearing is defined as the removal of brush while leaving ground vegetation (grasses, weeds, etc.) intact. Clearing is best accomplished by holding the blade 4 to 6 inches above the ground surface.*)
- The remaining area of the right-of-way (if any) shall only be disturbed by compressing the vegetation. (*Compressing can be caused by vehicle tires, placement of equipment, etc.*)

8. The holder shall stockpile an adequate amount of topsoil where blading is allowed. The topsoil to be stripped is approximately 6 inches in depth. The topsoil will be segregated from other spoil piles from trench construction. The topsoil will be evenly distributed over the bladed area for the preparation of seeding.



9. The holder shall minimize disturbance to existing fences and other improvements on public lands. The holder is required to promptly repair improvements to at least their former state. Functional use of these improvements will be maintained at all times. The holder will contact the owner of any improvements prior to disturbing them. When necessary to pass through a fence line, the fence shall be braced on both sides of the passageway prior to cutting of the fence. No permanent gates will be allowed unless approved by the Authorized Officer.

10. Vegetation, soil, and rocks left as a result of construction or maintenance activity will be randomly scattered on this right-of-way and will not be left in rows, piles, or berms, unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer. The entire right-of-way shall be recontoured to match the surrounding landscape. The backfilled soil shall be compacted and a 6 inch berm will be left over the ditch line to allow for settling back to grade.

11. In those areas where erosion control structures are required to stabilize soil conditions, the holder will install such structures as are suitable for the specific soil conditions being encountered and which are in accordance with sound resource management practices.

12. The holder will reseed all disturbed areas. Seeding will be done according to the attached seeding requirements, using the following seed mix.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> seed mixture 1                | <input type="checkbox"/> seed mixture 3          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> seed mixture 2                | <input type="checkbox"/> seed mixture 4          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> seed mixture 2/LPC | <input type="checkbox"/> Aplomado Falcon Mixture |

13. All above-ground structures not subject to safety requirements shall be painted by the holder to blend with the natural color of the landscape. The paint used shall be color which simulates "Standard Environmental Colors" – **Shale Green**, Munsell Soil Color No. 5Y 4/2.

14. The pipeline will be identified by signs at the point of origin and completion of the right-of-way and at all road crossings. At a minimum, signs will state the holder's name, BLM serial number, and the product being transported. All signs and information thereon will be posted in a permanent, conspicuous manner, and will be maintained in a legible condition for the life of the pipeline.

15. The holder shall not use the pipeline route as a road for purposes other than routine maintenance as determined necessary by the Authorized Officer in consultation with the holder before maintenance begins. The holder will take whatever steps are necessary to

ensure that the pipeline route is not used as a roadway. As determined necessary during the life of the pipeline, the Authorized Officer may ask the holder to construct temporary deterrence structures.

16. Any cultural and/or paleontological resources (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the Authorized Officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the holder.

17. The operator shall be held responsible if noxious weeds become established within the areas of operations. Weed control shall be required on the disturbed land where noxious weeds exist, which includes associated roads, pipeline corridor and adjacent land affected by the establishment of weeds due to this action. The operator shall consult with the Authorized Officer for acceptable weed control methods, which include following EPA and BLM requirements and policies.

18. Escape Ramps - The operator will construct and maintain pipeline/utility trenches [that are not otherwise fenced, screened, or netted] to prevent livestock, wildlife, and humans from becoming entrapped. At a minimum, the operator will construct and maintain escape ramps, ladders, or other methods of avian and terrestrial wildlife escape in the trenches according to the following criteria:

- a. Any trench left open for eight (8) hours or less is not required to have escape ramps; however, before the trench is backfilled, the contractor/operator shall inspect the trench for wildlife, remove all trapped wildlife, and release them at least 100 yards from the trench.
- b. For trenches left open for eight (8) hours or more, earthen escape ramps (built at no more than a 30 degree slope and spaced no more than 500 feet apart) shall be placed in the trench.

19. Special Stipulations:



### **C. ELECTRIC LINES**

#### **STANDARD STIPULATIONS FOR OVERHEAD ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION LINES**

**A copy of the grant and attachments, including stipulations, survey plat and/or map, will be on location during construction. BLM personnel may request to you a copy of your permit during construction to ensure compliance with all stipulations.**

Holder agrees to comply with the following stipulations to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer:

1. The holder shall indemnify the United States against any liability for damage to life or property arising from the occupancy or use of public lands under this grant.

2. The holder shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the holder shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 as amended, 15 USC 2601 et seq. (1982) with regards to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.

3. The holder agrees to indemnify the United States against any liability arising from the release of any hazardous substance or hazardous waste (as these terms are defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq. or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 6901, et seq.) on the Right-of-Way (unless the release or threatened release is wholly unrelated to the Right-of-Way holder's activity on the Right-of-Way), or resulting from the activity of the Right-of-Way holder on the Right-of-Way. This agreement applies without regard to whether a release is caused by the holder, its agent, or unrelated third parties.

4. There will be no clearing or blading of the right-of-way unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Authorized Officer.

5. Power lines shall be constructed and designed in accordance to standards outlined in "Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power lines: The State of the Art in 2006" Edison Electric Institute, APLIC, and the California Energy Commission 2006 . The holder shall assume the burden and expense of proving that pole designs not shown in the above publication deter raptor perching, roosting, and nesting. Such proof shall be provided by a raptor expert approved by the Authorized Officer. The BLM reserves the right to require modification or additions to all powerline structures placed on this right-



of-way, should they be necessary to ensure the safety of large perching birds. Such modifications and/or additions shall be made by the holder without liability or expense to the United States.

Raptor deterrence will consist of but not limited to the following: triangle perch discouragers shall be placed on each side of the cross arms and a nonconductive perching deterrence shall be placed on all vertical poles that extend past the cross arms.

6. The holder shall minimize disturbance to existing fences and other improvements on public lands. The holder is required to promptly repair improvements to at least their former state. Functional use of these improvements will be maintained at all times. The holder will contact the owner of any improvements prior to disturbing them. When necessary to pass through a fence line, the fence shall be braced on both sides of the passageway prior to cutting the fence. No permanent gates will be allowed unless approved by the Authorized Officer.

7. The BLM serial number assigned to this authorization shall be posted in a permanent, conspicuous manner where the power line crosses roads and at all serviced facilities. Numbers will be at least two inches high and will be affixed to the pole nearest the road crossing and at the facilities served.

8. Upon cancellation, relinquishment, or expiration of this grant, the holder shall comply with those abandonment procedures as prescribed by the Authorized Officer.

9. All surface structures (poles, lines, transformers, etc.) shall be removed within 180 days of abandonment, relinquishment, or termination of use of the serviced facility or facilities or within 180 days of abandonment, relinquishment, cancellation, or expiration of this grant, whichever comes first. This will not apply where the power line extends service to an active, adjoining facility or facilities.

10. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the Authorized Officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the holder.

11. Special Stipulations:

- For reclamation remove poles, lines, transformer, etc. and dispose of properly.
- Fill in any holes from the poles removed.



## **IX. INTERIM RECLAMATION**

During the life of the development, all disturbed areas not needed for active support of production operations should undergo interim reclamation in order to minimize the environmental impacts of development on other resources and uses.

Within six (6) months of well completion, operators should work with BLM surface management specialists (Jim Amos: 575-234-5909) to devise the best strategies to reduce the size of the location. Interim reclamation should allow for remedial well operations, as well as safe and efficient removal of oil and gas.

During reclamation, the removal of caliche is important to increasing the success of revegetating the site. Removed caliche that is free of contaminants may be used for road repairs, fire walls or for building other roads and locations. In order to operate the well or complete workover operations, it may be necessary to drive, park and operate on restored interim vegetation within the previously disturbed area. Disturbing revegetated areas for production or workover operations will be allowed. If there is significant disturbance and loss of vegetation, the area will need to be revegetated. Communicate with the appropriate BLM office for any exceptions/exemptions if needed.

All disturbed areas after they have been satisfactorily prepared need to be reseeded with the seed mixture provided below.

Upon completion of interim reclamation, the operator shall submit a Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells, Subsequent Report of Reclamation (Form 3160-5).

## **X. FINAL ABANDONMENT & RECLAMATION**

At final abandonment, well locations, production facilities, and access roads must undergo "final" reclamation so that the character and productivity of the land are restored.

Earthwork for final reclamation must be completed within six (6) months of well plugging. All pads, pits, facility locations and roads must be reclaimed to a satisfactory revegetated, safe, and stable condition, unless an agreement is made with the landowner or BLM to keep the road and/or pad intact.

After all disturbed areas have been satisfactorily prepared, these areas need to be revegetated with the seed mixture provided below. Seeding should be accomplished by drilling on the contour whenever practical or by other approved methods. Seeding may need to be repeated until revegetation is successful, as determined by the BLM.

Operators shall contact a BLM surface protection specialist prior to surface abandonment operations for site specific objectives (Jim Amos: 575-234-5909).

Below Ground-level Abandoned Well Marker to avoid raptor perching: Upon the plugging and subsequent abandonment of the well, the well marker will be installed at ground level on a plate containing the pertinent information for the plugged well.



## Seed Mixture for LPC Sand/Shinnery Sites

Holder shall seed all disturbed areas with the seed mixture listed below. The seed mixture shall be planted in the amounts specified in pounds of pure live seed (PLS)\* per acre. There shall be no primary or secondary noxious weeds in the seed mixture. Seed will be tested and the viability testing of seed shall be done in accordance with State law(s) and within nine (9) months prior to purchase. Commercial seed shall be either certified or registered seed. The seed container shall be tagged in accordance with State law(s) and available for inspection by the Authorized Officer.

Seed will be planted using a drill equipped with a depth regulator to ensure proper depth of planting where drilling is possible. The seed mixture will be evenly and uniformly planted over the disturbed area (smaller/heavier seeds have a tendency to drop the bottom of the drill and are planted first). Holder shall take appropriate measures to ensure this does not occur. Where drilling is not possible, seed will be broadcast and the area shall be raked or chained to cover the seed. When broadcasting the seed, the pounds per acre are to be doubled. Seeding shall be repeated until a satisfactory stand is established as determined by the Authorized Officer. Evaluation of growth may not be made before completion of at least one full growing season after seeding.

Species to be planted in pounds of pure live seed\* per acre:

<u>Species</u>	<u>lb/acre</u>
Plains Bristlegrass	5lbs/A
Sand Bluestem	5lbs/A
Little Bluestem	3lbs/A
Big Bluestem	6lbs/A
Plains Coreopsis	2lbs/A
Sand Dropseed	1lbs/A

\*Pounds of pure live seed:

Pounds of seed x percent purity x percent germination = pounds pure live seed