

HOBBS OCD

# **PECOS DISTRICT CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

FEB 21 2013

OPERATOR'S NAME:	COG Operating	RECEIVED
LEASE NO.:	NM0315712	
WELL NAME & NO.:	5H Branex-COG Operating	
SURFACE HOLE FOOTAGE:	2075' / FSL & 115' / FWL	
BOTTOM HOLE FOOTAGE:	2310' / FSL & 330' / FEL	
LOCATION:	Section 9, T.17 S., R.32 E., NMPM	
COUNTY:	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)**

### **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.

**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.

### **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.

## **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 stockpile the topsoil in a low profile manner in order to prevent wind/water erosion of the topsoil. The topsoil to be stripped is approximately 6 inches in depth. The topsoil will be used 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.

## VII. DRILLING

### A. DRILLING OPERATIONS REQUIREMENTS

The BLM is to be notified a minimum of 4 hours in advance for a representative to witness:

- a. Spudding well
- b. Setting and/or Cementing of all casing strings
- c. BOPE tests

☒ **Lea County**

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

1. A Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) Drilling Plan should be activated 500 feet prior to drilling into the **Grayburg** formation. **As a result, the Hydrogen Sulfide area must meet Onshore Order 6 requirements, which includes equipment and personnel/public protection items. If Hydrogen Sulfide is encountered, please provide measured values 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. **The record of the drilling rate along with the GR/N well log run from TD to surface will 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. 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.).**

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

**Wait on cement (WOC) time prior to drilling out for a primary cement job will be a minimum 18 hours for a water basin, 24 hours in the potash area, or 500 pounds compressive strength, whichever is greater for all casing strings. DURING THIS WOC TIME, NO DRILL PIPE, ETC. SHALL BE RUN IN THE HOLE. Provide compressive strengths including hours to reach required 500 pounds compressive strength prior to cementing each casing string. 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.**

**Possible water and brine flows in the Salado and Artesia Group.  
Possible lost circulation in the Grayburg and San Andres formations.**

1. The 13-3/8 inch surface casing shall be set at **approximately 943 feet (a minimum of 25 feet into the Rustler Anhydrite and above the salt)** and cemented to the surface.
  - 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.
2. The minimum required fill of cement behind the 9-5/8 inch intermediate casing is:  
☒ As proposed. If cement does not circulate see B.1.a, c-d above.

**Operator has proposed DV tool 50 feet below surface shoe, but will adjust cement proportionately if moved. DV tool SHALL be set a minimum of 50' below previous shoe and a minimum of 200' above current shoe. Operator shall submit sundry if DV tool depth cannot be set in this range. If an ECP is used, it is to be set a minimum of 50' below the shoe to provide cement across the shoe. If it cannot be set below the shoe, a CBL shall be run to verify cement coverage.**

a. First stage to DV tool:

- ☒ Cement to circulate. If cement does not circulate, contact the appropriate BLM office before proceeding with second stage cement job. Operator should have plans as to how they will achieve circulation on the next stage.

b. Second stage above DV tool:

- ☒ Cement to surface. If cement does not circulate, contact the appropriate BLM office.

**Operator shall install an isolation packer 330 feet from lease line to meet minimum set back requirements**

3. The minimum required fill of cement behind the 7 x 5-1/2 inch production casing is: External casing packers will be installed below KOP to the end of curve and left uncemented.

- ☒ Single stage job from DV tool at kick off point and should tie-back at least 200 feet into previous casing string. Operator shall provide method of verification.

**Operator has proposed DV tool at depth of 2300', but will adjust cement proportionately if moved. DV tool shall be set a minimum of 50' below previous shoe and a minimum of 200' above current shoe. Operator shall submit sundry if DV tool depth cannot be set in this range.**

a. First stage to DV tool:

- ☒ Cement to circulate. If cement does not circulate, contact the appropriate BLM office before proceeding with second stage cement job. Operator should have plans as to how they will achieve tie-back on the next stage.

b. Second stage above DV tool:

- ☒ Cement as proposed. Operator shall provide method of verification.

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 RP 53 Sec. 17. **Operator approved for either 13-5/8" or 11" BOP stack.**
2. Minimum working pressure of the blowout preventer (BOP) and related equipment (BOPE) required for drilling below the surface casing shoe shall be **2000 (2M) psi.**  
**In the case where the only BOP installed is an annular preventer, it shall be tested to a minimum of 2000 psi (which may require upgrading to 3M or 5M annular).**
  - a. **For surface casing only:** If the BOP/BOPE is to be tested against casing, the wait on cement (WOC) time for that casing is to be met (see WOC statement at start of casing section). Independent service company required.
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**. The operator also has the option of utilizing an independent tester to test without a plug (i.e. against the casing) pursuant to Onshore Order 2 with the pressure not to exceed 70% of the burst rating for the casing. Any test against the casing must meet the WOC time for water basin (18 hours) or potash (24 hours) or 500 pounds compressive strength, whichever is greater, prior to initiating the test (see casing segment as lead cement may be critical item).
  - c. The results of the test shall be reported to the appropriate BLM office.
  - d. 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.**
  - e. 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.



#### **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.

**CRW 021513**

## **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.

#### **Containment Structures**

The containment structure shall be constructed to hold the capacity of the entire contents of the largest tank, plus 24 hour production, unless more stringent protective requirements are deemed necessary by the Authorized Officer.

#### **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, Munsell Soil Color Chart # 5Y 4/2

### **B. PIPELINES**

#### **STANDARD STIPULATIONS FOR SURFACE INSTALLED PIPELINES**

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 activity of 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. The holder shall be liable for damage or injury to the United States to the extent provided by 43 CFR Sec. 2883.1-4. The holder shall be held to a standard of strict liability for damage or injury to the United States resulting from pipe rupture, fire, or spills caused or substantially aggravated by any of the following within the right-of-way or permit area:

- a. Activities of the holder including, but not limited to construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the facility.
- b. Activities of other parties including, but not limited to:
  - (1) Land clearing.
  - (2) Earth-disturbing and earth-moving work.
  - (3) Blasting.
  - (4) Vandalism and sabotage.
- c. Acts of God.

The maximum limitation for such strict liability damages shall not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for any one event, and any liability in excess of such amount shall be determined by the ordinary rules of negligence of the jurisdiction in which the damage or injury occurred.

This section shall not impose strict liability for damage or injury resulting primarily from an act of war or from the negligent acts or omissions of the United States.

5. If, during any phase of the construction, operation, maintenance, or termination of the pipeline, any oil, salt water, 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, salt water, or other pollutant, wherever found, shall be the responsibility of the holder, regardless of fault. Upon failure of the 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 the holder of any responsibility as provided herein.

6. All construction and maintenance activity will be confined to the authorized right-of-way width of 15 feet.

7. No blading or clearing of any vegetation will be allowed unless approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

8. The holder shall install the pipeline on the surface in such a manner that will minimize suspension of the pipeline across low areas in the terrain. In hummocky or dune areas, the pipeline will be "snaked" around hummocks and dunes rather than suspended across these features.

9. The pipeline shall be buried with a minimum of 24 inches under all roads, "two-tracks," and trails. Burial of the pipe will continue for 20 feet on each side of each crossing. The condition of the road, upon completion of construction, shall be returned to at least its former state with no bumps or dips remaining in the road surface.

10. 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.

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. Excluding the pipe, all above-ground structures not subject to safety requirement shall be painted by the holder to blend with the natural color of the landscape. The paint used shall be a color which simulates "Standard Environmental Colors" – **Shale Green**, Munsell Soil Color No. 5Y 4/2; designated by the Rocky Mountain Five State Interagency Committee.

13. 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. Signs will be maintained in a legible condition for the life of the pipeline.

14. 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. The holder will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the pipeline route is not used as a roadway.

15. 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 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.

(March 1989)

## **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).

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

The 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 will be done in accordance with State law(s) and within nine (9) months prior to purchase. Commercial seed will be either certified or registered seed. The seed container will 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). The 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. The seeding will be repeated until a satisfactory stand is established as determined by the authorized officer. Evaluation of growth will 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