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**SURFACE USE PLAN OF OPERATIONS**  
**MEWBOURNE OIL COMPANY**

Pepper Ridge 15 B2CN Fed Com #3H

185 FNL & 2200' FWL (SHL)

Sec. 15 – T26S-R33E

Lea County, New Mexico

**Introduction**

This plan is submitted with Form 3160-3, Application for Permit to Drill, Covering the above described well. The purpose of this plan is to describe the location of the proposed well, the proposed construction activities and operations plan, the magnitude of the surface disturbance involved, and the procedures to be followed in restoring the surface so that a complete appraisal can be made of the environmental impact associated with the proposed operations.

**1. Existing Roads**

- a. The existing access road route to the proposed project is depicted on Exhibit 3E. Improvements to the driving surface will be done where necessary. No new surface disturbance will be done, unless otherwise noted in the New or Reconstructed Access Roads section of this surface use plan.
- b. The existing oil and gas roads utilized to access the proposed project will be maintained by crowning, clearing ditches, and fixing potholes. All existing structures on the entire access route such as cattleguards, other range improvement projects, culverts, etc. will be properly repaired or replaced if they are damaged or have deteriorated beyond practical use.
- c. Mewbourne Oil Co. will cooperate with other operators in the maintenance of lease roads, it is anticipated that MOC will blade & water the lease roads 3 times per year.

**2. New or Reconstructed Access Roads**

- a. No new lease road required to access this location

**3. Location of Existing Wells**

- a. Exhibit 4, 4A of the APD depicts all known wells within a one mile radius of the proposed well.

**4. Location of Existing and/or Proposed Production Facilities**

- a. All permanent, lasting more than 6 months, above ground structures including but not limited to pumpjacks, storage tanks, pipeline risers, meter housing, etc. that are not subject to safety requirements will be painted a non-reflective paint color that blends in with the surrounding landscape. The paint color will be one of the colors from the BLM Standard Environmental Colors chart selected by the BLM authorized officer.

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- b. All proposed production facilities that are located on the well pad will be strategically placed to allow for maximum interim reclamation, recontouring, and revegetation of the well location.
- c. Production from the proposed well will be transported to the production facility located on the **East edge of location**. Electricity lines will most likely head west then NE along existing lease road to MOC's Salado Draw well location. This route will follow an existing lease road. The rancher's water line will be rerouted around the well pad and the existing buried steel line and appurtenances will be removed. Flowline will be on location (well site) from well head to battery on East edge of location.
- d. If any plans change regarding the production facility or other infrastructure (pipeline, electric line, etc.), we will submit a sundry notice or right of way (if applicable) prior to installation of construction.

## **5. Location and Types of Water**

- a. The well will be drilled with a combination of fresh water and brine water based mud systems. The water will be obtained from commercial suppliers in the area and/or hauled to the location by transport trucks over existing and proposed roads as identified above in this surface use plan. Water from the commercial suppliers will be supplied from the Dinwiddie water station located in SE/SE of Sec 3 T26S R33E, Lea Co.

## **6. Construction Materials**

- a. Construction material that will be used to build the well pad and road will be caliche.
- b. The construction contractor will be solely responsible for securing construction materials required for this operation and paying any royalties that may be required on those materials.
- c. Obtaining caliche: One way of obtaining caliche to build locations and roads will be by "turning over" the location. This means, caliche will be obtained from the actual well site. A caliche permit will be obtained from BLM prior to obtaining caliche. Amount of caliche will vary for each pad. The procedure below has been approved by BLM personnel:
  - i. The top 6 inches of topsoil is pushed off and stockpiled along the side of the location.
  - ii. An approximate 160' X 160' area is used within the proposed well site to remove caliche.
  - iii. Subsoil is removed and stockpiled within the surveyed well pad.
  - iv. When caliche is found, material will be stock piled within the pad site to build the location and road.

- v. Then subsoil is pushed back in the hole and caliche is spread accordingly across entire location and road.
- vi. Once well is drilled, the stock piled top soil will be used for interim reclamation and spread along areas where caliche is picked up and the location size is reduced.
- vii. Neither caliche, nor subsoil will be stock piled outside of the well pad. Topsoil will be stockpiled along the edge of the pad as depicted in the Well Site Layout or survey plat.

In the event that no caliche is found onsite, caliche will be hauled in from a BLM, state, or private mineral pit. A BLM mineral material permit will be acquired prior to obtaining any mineral material from BLM pits or land.

**Caliche for this well pad will be hauled from a private pit in Sec. 3 T26S T33E.**

Construction will consist of using the following equipment: Dozer, grader/blade, backhoe, roller, water trucks & dump trucks. Dozer will level the location stockpiling topsoil on the specified edge of the location. Dump trucks will haul material to location. Dozer & Blade will spread material evenly across location. Location will be leveled & rolled with blade & roller. Backhoe will be used to install the 8' x 10' cellar. Average timeline for the construction of locations will be 10-14 days after APD approval. **Straw wattles will be installed along the South edge of well pad.**

## **7. Methods of Handling Waste**

- a. The well will be drilled utilizing a closed loop system. Drill cuttings will be properly contained in steel tanks (20 yard roll off bins.) and taken to an NMOCD approved disposal facility listed below.
- b. Drilling fluids and produced oil and water from the well during completion operations will be stored safely in closed containers (20 yard roll off bins) and disposed of properly in an NMOCD approved disposal facility listed below.
- c. Garbage and trash produced during drilling and completion operations will be collected in trash containers (enclosed trash trailers) and disposed of properly at a state approved site. All trash on and around the well site will be collected for disposal.
- d. All human waste and grey water from drilling and completion operations will be properly contained in a 2,000 gallon plastic container and disposed of properly at the City of Carlsbad Water Treatment facility.

- e. After drilling and completion operations, trash, chemicals, salts, frac sand and other waste material will be removed and disposed of properly at the said facilities. NMOCD approved waste disposal locations are CRI or Lea Land, both facilities are located on HWY 62/180, Sec. 27 T20S R32E.
- f. SWD proposed location are as follows: Kentzel 42 SWD #1 (MOC), TXL 11 West SWD #1 (MOC), TXL 33 SWD #1 (MOC). Saltwater will be truck hauled to these locations using lease roads & county roads.

## **8. Ancillary Facilities**

- a. No ancillary facilities will be needed for this proposed project.

## **9. Well Site Layout**

- a. The proposed drilling pad to be built was staked and surveyed by a professional surveyor. The attached survey plat of the well site depicts the drilling pad layout as staked.
- b. A title of a well site diagram is **Exhibit 5**. This diagram depicts the rig layout.
- c. In areas to be heavily disturbed, the top 6 inches of soil material, will be stripped and stockpiled on the perimeter of the well location to keep topsoil viable, and to make redistribution of topsoil more efficient during interim reclamation. Stockpiled topsoil should include vegetative material. Topsoil will be clearly segregated and stored separately from subsoils. Contaminated soil will not be stockpiled, but properly treated and handled prior to topsoil salvaging.

## **10. Plans for Surface Reclamation**

Within 90 days of cessation of drilling and completion operations, all equipment not necessary for production operations will be removed. The location will be cleaned of all trash and junk to assure the well site is left as aesthetically pleasing as reasonably possible.

### **a. Interim Reclamation (well pad)**

- i. Interim reclamation will be performed on the well site after the well is drilled and completed. **Exhibit 6** depicts the location and dimensions of the planned interim reclamation for the well site.
- ii. The well location and surrounding areas will be cleared of, and maintained free of, all materials, trash, and equipment not required for production.

- iii. In areas planned for interim reclamation, all the surfacing material will be removed and returned to the original mineral pit or recycled to repair or build roads and well pads.
- iv. The areas planned for interim reclamation will then be recontoured to the original contour if feasible, or if not feasible, to an interim contour that blends with the surrounding topography as much as possible. Where applicable, the fill material of the well pad will be backfilled into the cut to bring the area back to the original contour. The interim cut and fill slopes prior to re-seeding will not be steeper than a 3:1 ratio, unless the adjacent native topography is steeper. Note: Constructed slopes may be much steeper during drilling, but will be recontoured to the above ratios during interim reclamation.
- v. Topsoil will be evenly respread and aggressively revegetated over the entire disturbed area not needed for all-weather operations including cuts & fills. To seed the area, the proper BLM seed mixture, free of noxious weeds, will be used. Final seedbed preparation will consist of contour cultivating to a depth of 4 to 6 inches within 24 hours prior to seeding, dozer tracking, or other imprinting in order to break the soil crust and create seed germination micro-sites.
- vi. Proper erosion control methods will be used on the area to control erosion, runoff and siltation of the surrounding area.
- vii. The interim reclamation will be monitored periodically to ensure that vegetation has reestablished and that erosion and invasive/noxious weeds are controlled.

**b. Final Reclamation (well pad, buried pipelines, etc.)**

- i. Prior to final reclamation procedures, the well pad, road, and surrounding area will be cleared of material, trash, and equipment.
- ii. All surfacing material will be removed and returned to the original mineral pit or recycled to repair or build roads and well pads.
- iii. All disturbed areas, including roads, pipelines, pads, production facilities, and interim reclaimed areas will be recontoured to the contour existing prior to initial construction or a contour that blends indistinguishably with the surrounding landscape. Topsoil that was spread over the interim reclamation areas will be stockpiled prior to recontouring. The topsoil will be redistributed evenly over the entire disturbed site to ensure successful revegetation.
- iv. After all the disturbed areas have been properly prepared, the areas will be seeded with the proper BLM seed mixture, free of noxious weeds. Final seedbed preparation will consist of contour cultivating to a depth of 4 to 6

inches within 24 hours prior to seeding, dozer tracking, or other imprinting in order to break the soil crust and create seed germination micro-sites.

- v. Proper erosion control methods will be used on the entire area to control erosion, runoff and siltation of the surrounding area.
- vi. All unused equipment and structures including pipelines, electric line poles, tanks, etc. that serviced the well will be removed.
- vii. All reclaimed areas will be monitored periodically to ensure that revegetation occurs, that the area is not redisturbed, and that erosion and invasive/noxious weeds are controlled.

#### **11. Surface Ownership**

- a. The surface ownership of the proposed project is federal.

#### **12. Other Information**

- a. No other information is needed at this time.

#### **13. Operator's Representative**

- a. Through APD approval, drilling, completion and production operations:

**Robin Terrell, District Manager**  
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