

MAY 08 2017

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# PECOS DISTRICT SURFACE USE CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

OPERATOR'S NAME:	Devon Energy Production Company, LP
LEASE NO.:	NMLC061873B
WELL NAME & NO.:	355H-Cotton Draw Unit
SURFACE HOLE FOOTAGE:	215'/S & 570'/E
BOTTOM HOLE FOOTAGE:	2350'/S & 360'/E
LOCATION:	Section 18, T.25 S., R.32 E., NMPM
COUNTY:	Lea County, New Mexico

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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.

- ☐ General Provisions
- ☐ Permit Expiration
- ☐ Archaeology, Paleontology, and Historical Sites
- ☐ Noxious Weeds
- ☒ Special Requirements
  - Lesser Prairie-Chicken Timing Stipulations
  - Below Ground-level Abandoned Well Marker
  - Cave/Karst
  - Range
  - Watershed
- ☐ Construction
  - Notification
  - Topsoil
  - Closed Loop System
  - Federal Mineral Material Pits
  - Well Pads
  - Roads
- ☐ Road Section Diagram
- ☒ Production (Post Drilling)
  - Well Structures & Facilities
  - Pipelines
  - Electric Lines
- ☐ Interim Reclamation
- ☐ Final Abandonment & Reclamation

## **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.



**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 below 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.

This authorization is subject to your Certificate of Participation and/or Certificate of Inclusion under the New Mexico Candidate Conservation Agreement. Because it involves surface disturbing activities covered under your Certificate, your Habitat Conservation Fund Account with the Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (CEHMM) will be debited according to Exhibit B Part 2 of the Certificate of Participation.

**Temporary Fence Crossing Requirement**

Where entry is granted across a fence line, the fence must be braced and tied off on both sides of the passageway with H-braces prior to cutting. Once the work is completed, the fence will be restored to its prior condition, or better. The operator shall notify the private surface landowner or the grazing allotment holder prior to crossing any fences.

**Cattle Guard Requirement**

Where entry is granted across a fence line for an access road, the fence must be braced and tied off on both sides of the passageway with H-braces prior to cutting. Once the work is completed, the fence will be restored to its prior condition with an appropriately sized cattle guard sufficient to carry out the project. Any new or existing cattle guards on the access 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 cattle guards that are in place and are utilized during lease operations. Once the road is abandoned, the fence would be restored to its prior condition, or better. The operator shall notify the private surface landowner or the grazing allotment holder prior to crossing any fences.

**Livestock Watering Requirement**

The operator must contact the allotment holder prior to construction to identify the location of the water pipelines. The operator must take measures to protect the pipelines from compression or other damages. If the water pipelines are damaged or compromised in any way near the proposed project as a result of oil and gas activity, the operator is responsible for repairing the water pipelines immediately. The operator must notify the BLM office (575-234-5972) and the private surface landowner or the grazing allotment holder if any damage occurs to structures that provide water to livestock.

During construction, the proponent shall minimize disturbance to existing fences, water lines, troughs, windmills, and other improvements on public lands. The proponent 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 grazing permittee/allottee prior to disturbing any range improvement projects. 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.

As stated above, the applicant through the CCA program contributes funds that are used for habitat restoration projects identified by USFWS and BLM. Although the CCA program may not fully mitigate for impacts to habitat at the project site, it complies with the BLM mitigation rule.

In May 2008, the Pecos District Special Status Species Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) was approved and is being implemented. In addition to the standard practices that minimize impacts, as listed above, the following COA will apply:

- Timing Limitation Stipulation / Condition of Approval for lesser prairie-chicken, to minimize noise associated impacts which could disrupt breeding and nesting activities.
- Upon abandonment, a low profile abandoned well marker will be installed to prevent raptor perching.

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.

The presence of short-eared owls is a surprising and scientifically interesting incident. The preparation and construction of CDU 34-34 pad and CTB #1 and CDU 27-27 pad and CTB #1 should be delayed until after September to allow confirmation and documentation of the nesting status.

#### **Construction Mitigation**

In order to mitigate the impacts from construction activities on cave and karst resources, the following Conditions of Approval will apply to this APD:

- In the event that any underground voids are encountered during construction activities, construction activities will be halted and the BLM will be notified immediately.
- No Blasting to prevent geologic structure instabilities.
- Pad Berming to minimize effects of any spilled contaminants.

#### **Drilling Mitigation**

Federal regulations and standard Conditions of Approval applied to all APDs require that adequate measures are taken to prevent contamination to the environment. Due to the extreme sensitivity of the cave and karst resources in this project area, the following additional Conditions of Approval will be added to this APD.

To prevent cave and karst resource contamination the following will be required.

- Closed Mud System Using Steel Tanks with All Fluids and Cuttings Hauled Off.



- Rotary drilling with fresh water where cave or karst features are expected to prevent contamination of freshwater aquifers.
- Directional Drilling allowed after at least 100 feet below the cave occurrence zone to prevent additional impacts resulting from directional drilling.
- Lost Circulation zones logged and reported in the drilling report so BLM can assess the situation and work with the operator on corrective actions.
- Additional drilling, casing, and cementing procedures to protect cave zones and fresh water aquifers. See Drilling COAs.

#### **Production Mitigation**

In order to mitigate the impacts from production activities and due to the nature of karst terrain, the following Conditions of Approval will apply to this APD:

- Tank battery liners and berms to minimize the impact resulting from leaks.
- Leak detection system to provide an early alert to operators when a leak has occurred.
- Automatic shut off, check valves, or similar systems will be installed for pipelines and tanks to minimize the effects of line failures used in production or drilling.

#### **Residual and Cumulative Mitigation**

- Annual pressure monitoring will be performed by the operator. If the test results indicate a casing failure has occurred, remedial action will be undertaken to correct the problem to the BLM's approval.

#### **Plugging and Abandonment Mitigation**

Abandonment Cementing: Upon well abandonment in high cave karst areas additional plugging conditions of approval may be required. The BLM will assess the situation and work with the operator to ensure proper plugging of the wellbore.

- The entire well pads and CTB pads will be bermed to prevent oil, salt, and other chemical contaminants from leaving the well pad and CTB pad. Topsoil shall not be used to construct the berm. No water flow from the uphill side(s) of the pads shall be allowed to enter the well pad. The berm shall be maintained through the life of the well and CTB and after interim reclamation has been completed.
- Any water erosion that may occur due to the construction of the well pads and CTB pads during the life of the wells and CTB's will be corrected within two weeks and proper measures will be taken to prevent future erosion.

V.

## **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.

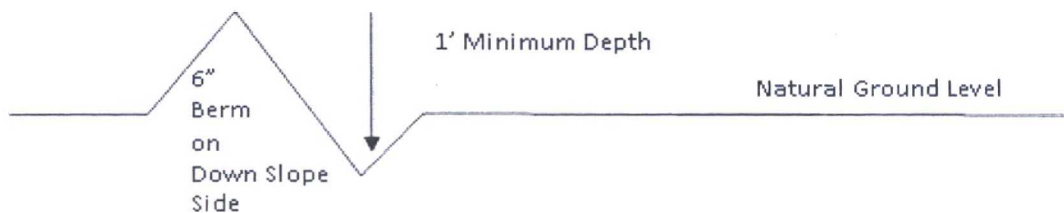
**Drainage**



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:

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

#### **Cattle guards**

An appropriately sized cattle guard sufficient to carry out the project shall be installed and maintained at fence/road crossings. Any existing cattle guards 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 cattle guards 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**

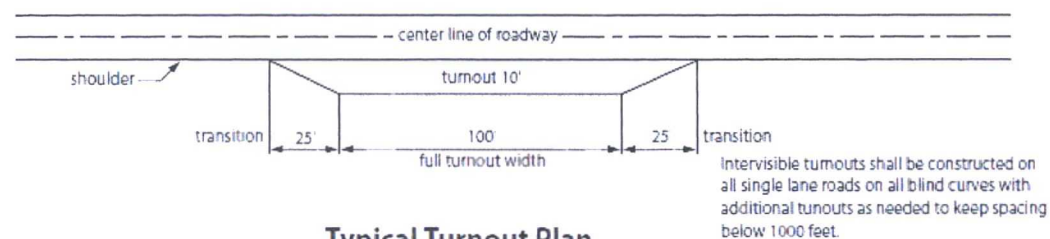
Public access on this road shall not be restricted by the operator without specific written approval granted by the Authorized Officer.



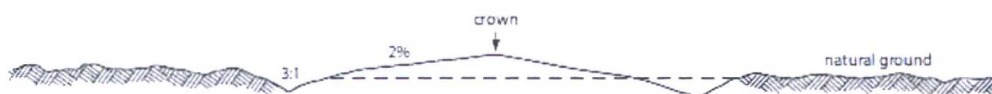
### Construction Steps

1. Salvage topsoil
2. Construct road

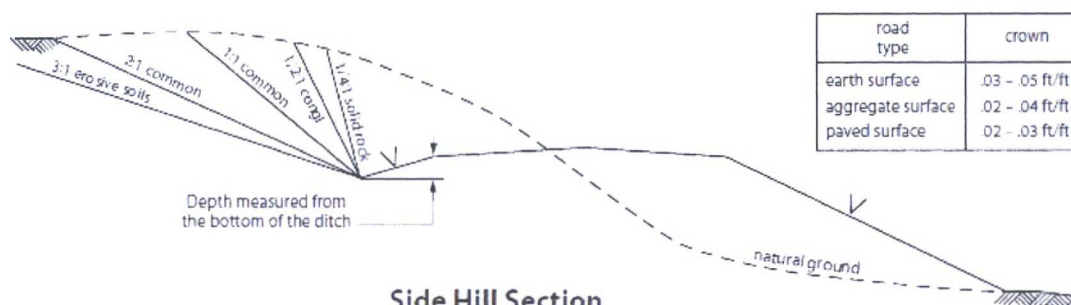
3. Redistribute topsoil
4. Revegetate slopes



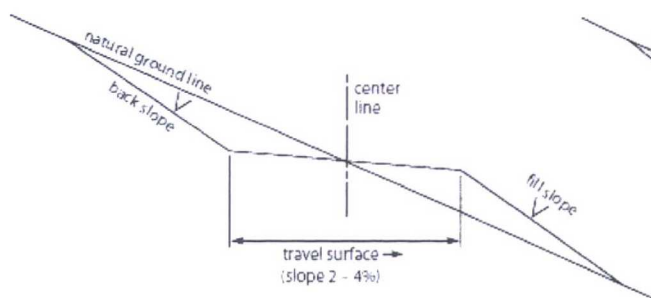
**Typical Turnout Plan**



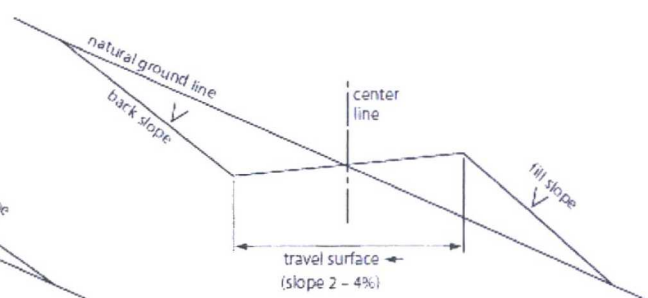
**Level Ground Section**



**Side Hill Section**



**Typical Outsploped Section**



**Typical Insloped Section**

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

## **VI. 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).

#### **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 30 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 30 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:

#### **Lesser Prairie-Chicken**

Oil and gas activities 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, geophysical exploration other than 3-D operations, and 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. 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 ft. from the source of the noise.

This authorization is subject to your Certificate of Participation and/or Certificate of Inclusion under the New Mexico Candidate Conservation Agreement. Because it involves surface disturbing activities covered under your Certificate, your Habitat Conservation Fund Account with the Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (CEHMM) will be debited according to Exhibit B Part 2 of the Certificate of Participation.

#### **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.

**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, geophysical exploration other than 3-D operations, and 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 ft. from the source of the noise.

This authorization is subject to your Certificate of Participation and/or Certificate of Inclusion under the New Mexico Candidate Conservation Agreement. Because it involves surface disturbing activities covered under your Certificate, your Habitat Conservation Fund Account with the Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (CEHMM) will be debited according to Exhibit B Part 2 of the Certificate of Participation.

## **VII. 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).

## **VIII. 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 below ground level on a plate containing the pertinent information for the plugged well. A GPS point will be given to the BLM.



## 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