

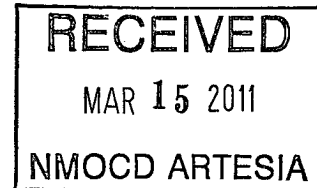
PECOS DISTRICT CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

OPERATOR'S NAME:	Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado
LEASE NO.:	LC-067132
WELL NAME & NO.:	Empire A Fed. Com. #3
SURFACE HOLE FOOTAGE:	0330' FSL & 0810' FWL
BOTTOM HOLE FOOTAGE:	0330' FNL & 0660' FWL
LOCATION:	Section 27, T. 18 S., R. 29 E., NMPM
COUNTY:	Eddy 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)

Construction of access road

The southern edge of the access road shall not be greater than 30 feet south of the centerline of the buried pipeline.

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.

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) 234-5972 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.

F. 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 (20) 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

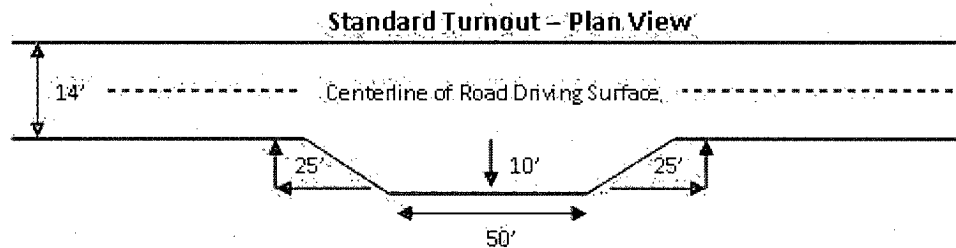
Crowning shall be done on the access road driving surface. The road crown shall have a grade of approximately 2% (i.e., a 1" crown on a 14' wide road). The road shall conform to Figure 1; cross section and plans for typical road construction.

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 be constructed on all blind curves. Turnouts shall conform to the following diagram:

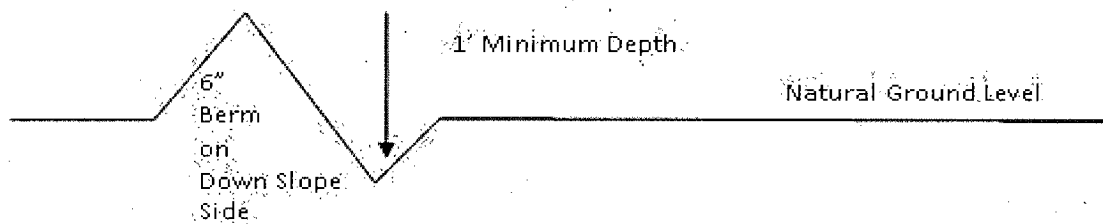


Drainage

Drainage control systems shall be constructed on the entire length of road (e.g. ditches, sidehill outslping 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:

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

Culvert Installations

Appropriately sized culvert(s) shall be installed at the deep waterway channel flow crossing.

Cattleguards

An appropriately sized cattleguard(s) sufficient to carry out the project shall be installed and maintained at fence crossing(s).

Any existing cattleguard(s) on the access road 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 cattleguard(s) that are in place and are utilized during lease operations.

A gate shall be constructed and fastened securely to H-braces.

Fence Requirement

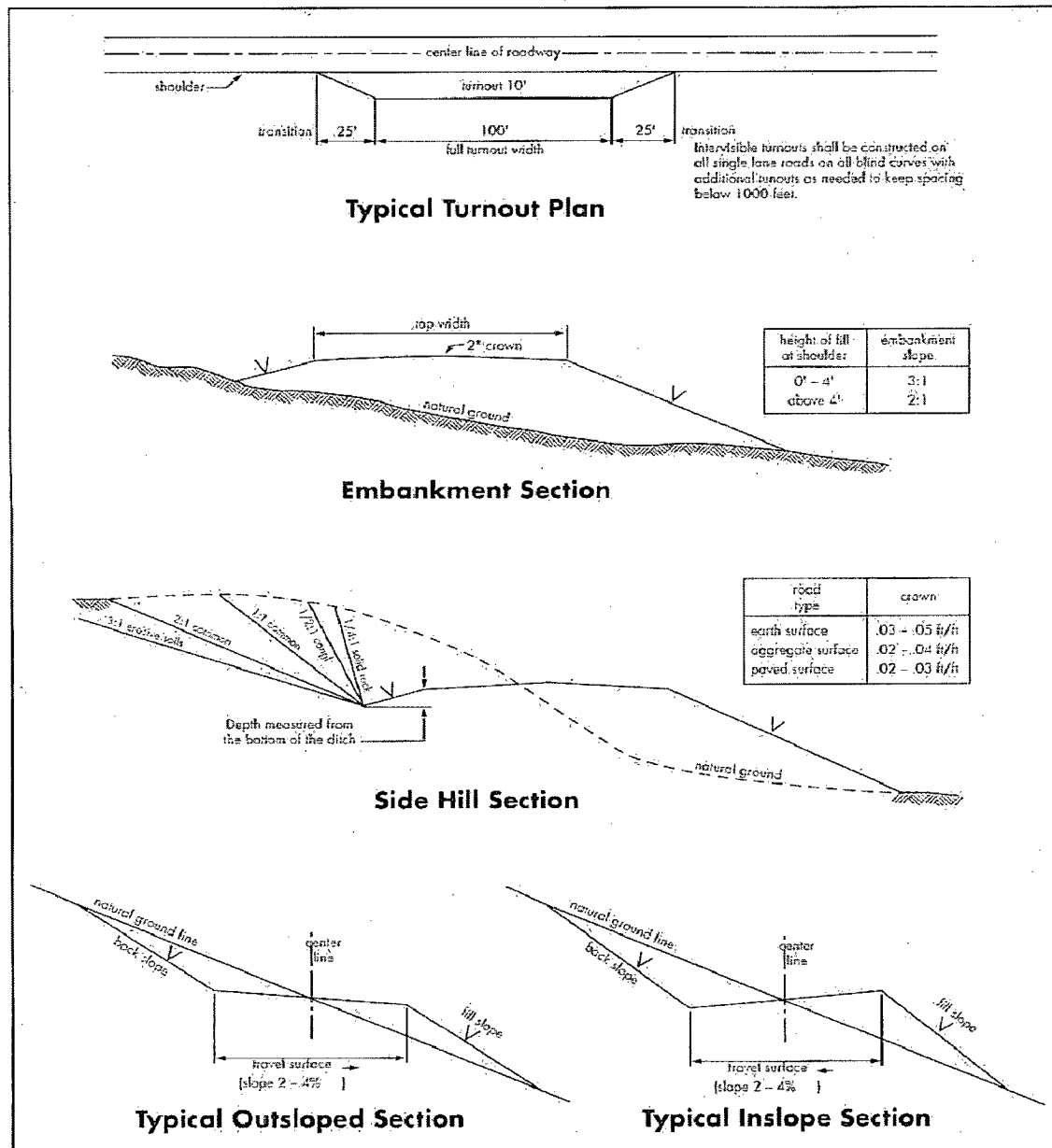
Where entry is required across a fence line, the fence shall be braced and tied off on both sides of the passageway prior to cutting.

The operator shall notify the private surface landowner or the grazing allotment holder prior to crossing any fence(s).

Public Access

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

Figure 1 – Cross Sections and Plans For Typical Road Sections



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

☒ **Eddy County**

Call the Carlsbad Field Office, 620 East Greene St., Carlsbad, NM 88220,
(575) 361-2822

1. A Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) 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. 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 are 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 top and bottom of Salt are to be recorded on the Completion Report.**

B. CASING

Changes to the approved APD casing and cement program require submitting a sundry and receiving approval prior to work. Failure to obtain approval prior to work will result in an Incident of Non-Compliance being issued.

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 lost circulation in the Grayburg and San Andres Formations.
Possible water flows in the Salado and Artesia Groups.**

1. The 13-3/8 inch surface casing shall be set **at approximately 300 feet (in competent bedrock 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.

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 9-5/8 inch intermediate casing is:

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

Formation below the 9-5/8" 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 third joint unless lateral doglegs require greater spacing between centralizers.

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.

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.

2. Minimum working pressure of the blowout preventer (BOP) and related equipment (BOPE) required for drilling below the surface casing shoe shall be **3000 (3M) psi. Operator installing a 5M but testing as a 3M system.**

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 or where the float does not hold, the minimum wait time before cut-off is eight hours after bumping the plug or when the cement reaches 500 psi compressive strength (including lead when specified), whichever is greater. BOP/BOPE testing can begin after the above conditions are satisfied.
 - 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.

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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.

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 (not permitted in APD)

C. ELECTRIC LINES (not permitted in APD)

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).

Seed Mixture 2, for Sandy 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>
Sand dropseed (<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>)	1.0
Sand love grass (<i>Eragrostis trichodes</i>)	1.0
Plains bristlegrass (<i>Setaria macrostachya</i>)	2.0

*Pounds of pure live seed:

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