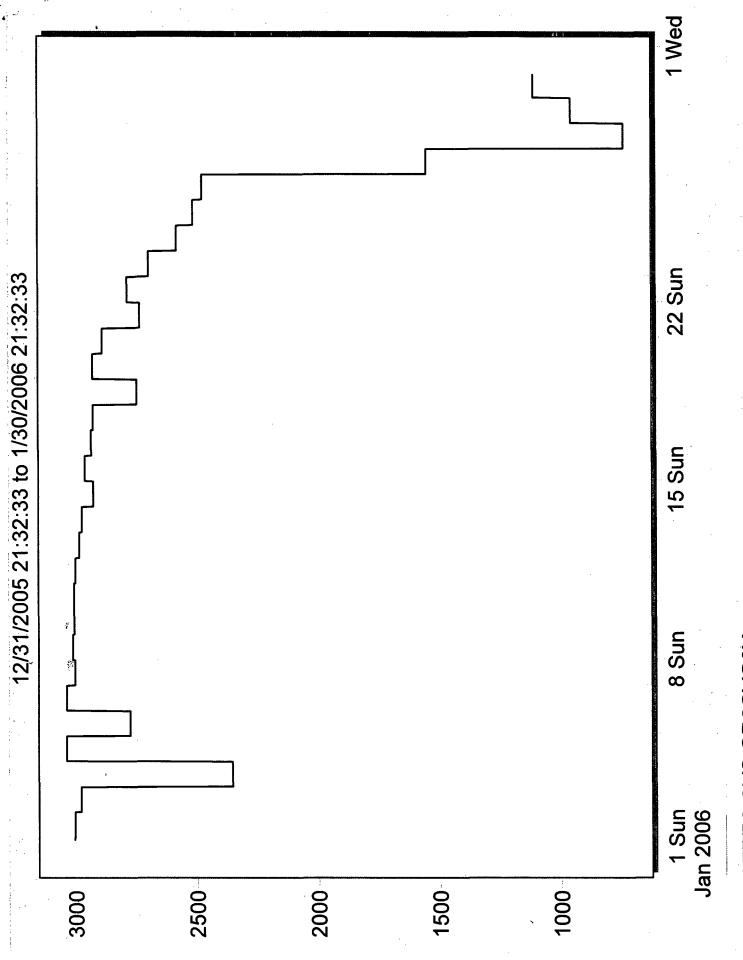
Form 3160-5 (April 2004)

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FORM APPROVED OM B No. 1004-0137 Expires: March 31, 2007

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  SUNDRY NOTICES AND REPORTS OF Do not use this form for proposals to drill or abandoned well. Use Form 3160 - 3 (APD) for stable of the substitutions o	6. If Indian, Allottee or Tribe Name NA  7. If Unit or CA/Agreement Name and Or No  8. Well Name and No  Gardner C 6  9. API Well No. 30-045-27998  10. Field and Pool, or Exploratory Area Basin Fruitland Coal
S25, T32N, R9W 1170' FNL & 1820' FEL (B)	11. County or Parish, State  San Juan, New Mexico
12. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES) TO INDICATE  TYPE OF SUBMISSION	
Acidize    Acidize	Struction Abandon Temporarily Abandon Prepair. Possible Recomplete Water Disposal Recomplete Repair. Possible Required starting date of any proposed work and approximate duration thereof ace locations and measured and true vertical depths of all pertinent markers and zones. On on file with BLM/BIA. Required subsequent reports shall be filed within 30 days tiple completion or recompletion in a new interval, a Form 3160-4 shall be filed once all requirements, including reclamation, have been completed, and the operator has be to coal fines. We plan to construct a water pit 50' L x 40' W x 10' Deter pit. Pit will be fenced until recalimed and reseaded to approved BLM 22" liner. (if liner is removed, well will be cavitated)
14. I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct Name (Printed/Typed)  Melissa Betoni	Title Production Assistant/Consultant
Signature milin Autom	Date 02-01-06
THIS SPACE FOR FEDERAL OR STATE OFFICE USE	
Approved by  Conditions of approval it any, are attached. Approval of this notice does not warra certify that the applicant holds legal or equitable title to those rights in the subject lewhich would entitle the applicant to conduct operations thereon.	

Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and Title 43 U.S.C. Section 1212, make it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations as to anymatter within its jurisdiction.



AZTEC.CVS.GR6CVG0Y



### United States Department of the Interior

#### **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Farmington District Office 1235 La Plata Highway - Suite A Farmington, New Mexico 87401



IN REPLY REFER TO: NM0212 6500

FEB 3 - 2006

Mr. Brad Walls People's Energy 909 Fannin - Suite 1300 Houston, Texas 77010

Dear Mr. Walls:

We are in receipt of your request for an exception to the seasonal restrictions on drilling and other human disturbances within wildlife specially designated areas (SDAs). A review of your request indicates the following:

- (1) The area in question lies within the Rattlesnake Canyon SDA, specifically:
  - T32N, R9W, Section 25 Gardner C 6
- (2) The nature of your requested activity is the cleaning of the well bore with air and possibly cavitating the well if the cleaning does not restore production.
- (3) The Rattlesnake Canyon SDA has been placed in the "Moderate" priority category with a seasonal closure period of December 1 through March 31.

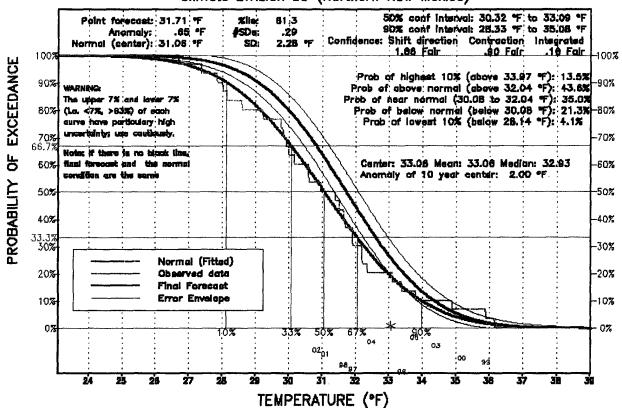
Each exception request received is evaluated against five different criteria which are described in the Farmington Field Office's "Procedures for Requesting an Exception to Seasonal Drilling Restrictions". Typically, an exception request is evaluated against the current conditions, in particular weather and animal densities.

- (1) Animal Density The numbers of deer and elk in this area are relatively low compared to the available habitat. In terms of distribution these animals tend to occur in small groups in areas of desirable forage, water and cover conditions. Some areas may appear to be sparsely populated while others will appear (based upon tracks, droppings, forage utilization and direct observation) to be more heavily used.
- (2) Winter Severity The area of the requested exception lies west of Pump Mesa. During mild winters there appears to be little movement of big game in response to the weather. However,

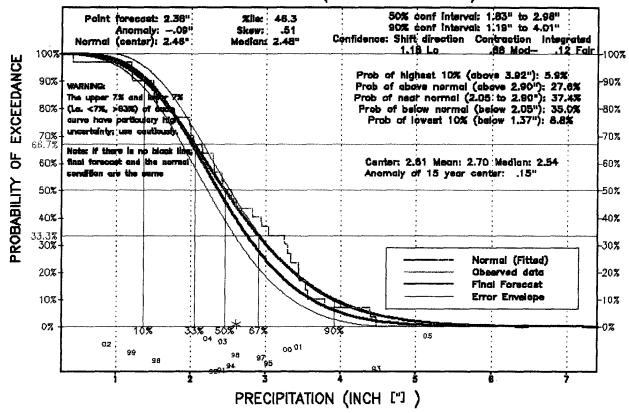
during more harsh weather there may some movement of deer and elk from the Southern Ute Reservation into this area. The extent of these movements is dependent upon the severity of the winter. At this point in time there are two to three inches of snow in the area. The 90 day statistical outlook suggests that temperatures could be slightly above normal with precipitation near or slightly below average. The graphs below depict this information.

Graph 1 – Temperature forecast for January – March 2006.

## MEAN TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK FOR JFM 2006 0.5 MONTH LEAD OUTLOOK - MADE December 15 2005 Climate Division 99 (Northern New Mexico)



### PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK FOR JFM 2006 0.5 MONTH LEAD OUTLOOK — MADE December 15 2005 Climate Division 99 (Northern New Mexico)



- (3) Length of the proposed operation The requested exception would require approximately 7-10 days initially to clean-out the well bore with the possibility of an additional 3 to 4 weeks for cavitation. All of this work would occur on an existing location but would likely necessitate considerable vehicle travel to and from the site.
- (4) Condition of the surrounding habitat Overall, the key browse species (true mountain mahogany and antelope bitterbrush) throughout much of this area rates as fair condition. In addition, there are significant amounts of woodland cover.
- (5) Amount of existing disturbance The area of the requested exception is being heavily developed for its natural gas reserves. Consequently, the habitat fragmentation that has resulted from imposing this type of infrastructure on the landscape is high. In November of 2003 the number of gas wells located within the Rattlesnake Canyon SDA was 1,079 or approximately 6.3 wells per square mile of land. Road densities at his time were calculated at approximately 2.3 miles of road per square mile. Since this time there has been considerably more

development. Clearly, this magnitude of fragmentation impacts the ability of big game such as deer and elk to readily escape the possible stressful effects of human activity.

In summary, the responses to the evaluation criteria listed above reflects an area with relatively low numbers of big game, browse that is in fair condition, extensive habitat fragmentation but good amounts of woodland escape cover. In addition, the current winter has been mild thus far. Given the circumstances described above, it is my decision to grant your request for an exception to the seasonal restriction in the Rattlesnake Canyon SDA contingent upon no unusually heavy snowstorms occurring (>6"). Should we receive heavy snows, you are to contact the Farmington Field office to coordinate the timing of the remaining work. Therefore, you are authorized to conduct the work above with the provision that you advise the BLM prior to cavitating the well (if necessary) through March 3, 2006. All work will be conducted during daylight hours Monday through Friday. Any activity beyond this time will require a new exception request.

Should you have any questions concerning the above, please contact John Hansen at 505-599-6325.

Sincerely,

David Mankiewicz

Assistant Field Manager for Minerals