

Goetze, Phillip, EMNRD

From: Rutley, James <jrutley@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 4:17 PM
To: Goetze, Phillip, EMNRD; Kautz, Paul, EMNRD; Brown, Maxey G, EMNRD; Jones, William V, EMNRD; McMillan, Michael, EMNRD
Cc: Cody Layton
Subject: [EXT] Athena 28 SWD 1

Good Evening Phillip,

I hope you are doing fabulous! The local newspaper now concurs with my assessment of being the busiest office in the country. An article stating as such was recently published above the fold in the Current Argus.

We reviewed our Solaris' Athena SWD 1 protest and shared the location with the two potash producers to weigh their comments regarding the status of the well.

In accordance with the Secretary's Potash Order, it is the policy of the Department of the Interior to deny approval of most applications for permits to drill oil and gas wells from surface locations within the Designated Potash Area. Three exceptions to this policy will be permitted if the drilling will occur under the following conditions from:

- a. A Drilling Island associated with a Development Area established under this Order or a Drilling Island established under a prior Order;
- b. A Barren Area and the Authorized Officer determines that such operations will not adversely affect active or planned potash mining operations in the immediate vicinity of the proposed drill-site; or
- c. A Drilling Island, not covered by (a) above, or single well site established under this Order by the approval and in the sole discretion of the Authorized Officer, provided that such site was jointly recommended to the Authorized Officer by the oil and gas lessee(s) and the nearest potash lessee(s).

BLM shared the Athena SWD location at 2198' FNL & 350' FWL, Section 28 of T20S R34E to both potash operators, Intrepid and Mosaic, as a single well site established under this Order that such site was jointly recommended to the Authorized Officer by the oil and gas lessee and the nearest potash lessee(s).

Both Intrepid and Mosaic did not object to the location of the well as staked. BLM will rescind protest of this well.

Have a great evening and safe Halloween!

Thanks,

Jim

James S. Rutley

Geologist (Potash Specialist)

Carlsbad Field Office

Bureau of Land Management

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