

AUG 13 2012

# **PECOS DISTRICT CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

**RECEIVED**

OPERATOR'S NAME:	CIMAREX ENERGY
LEASE NO.:	NM28880
WELL NAME & NO.:	4-LYNCH 23 FEDERAL COM
SURFACE HOLE FOOTAGE:	0326'/N. & 1727'/E.
BOTTOM HOLE FOOTAGE:	0330'/S. & 1980'/E.
LOCATION:	Section 23, T. 20 S., R. 34 E., NMPM
COUNTY:	Lea 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)**

### **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.

**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 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.

### **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 Hobbs Field Station at (575) 393-3612 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.

## 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

☒ **Lea County**

Call the Hobbs Field Station, 414 West Taylor, Hobbs NM 88240,  
(575) 393-3612

1. **Due to recent H<sub>2</sub>S encounters in the salt formation, it is recommended that monitoring equipment be onsite for potential Hydrogen Sulfide prior to drilling out the surface shoe. If Hydrogen Sulfide is encountered, please report measurements 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 Rustler top and top and bottom of Salt are to be recorded on the Completion Report.**

### B. CASING

Changes to the approved APD casing program need prior approval if the items substituted are of lesser grade or different casing size. The Operator can exchange the components of the proposal with that of superior strength (i.e. changing from J-55 to N-80, or from 36# to 40#).

**Changes to the approved cement program need prior approval if the altered cement plan has less volume or strength or if the changes are substantial (i.e. Multistage tool, ECP, etc.).**

**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.**

#### **Secretary's Potash**

**Possible lost circulation in the Red Beds, Capitan Reef, Delaware and Bone Spring Groups.**

1. The **13-3/8** inch surface casing shall be set at approximately **1700** feet (a minimum of 25 feet into the Rustler Anhydrite 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.

#### **Special Capitan Reef requirements:**

**If any lost circulation occurs below the Base of the Salt, the operator shall do the following:**

- Switch to fresh water mud to protect the Capitan Reef and use fresh water mud until setting the intermediate casing. The appropriate BLM office is to be notified for a PET to witness the switch to fresh water.
- Daily drilling reports from the Base of the Salt to the setting of the intermediate casing are to be submitted to the BLM CFO engineering staff via e-mail by 0800 hours each morning. Any lost circulation encountered is to be recorded on these drilling reports. The daily drilling report should show mud volume per shift/tour. Failure to submit these reports will result in an Incidence of Non-Compliance being issued for failure to comply with the Conditions of Approval. If not already planned, the operator shall run a caliper survey for the intermediate well bore and submit to the appropriate 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. **Wait on cement (WOC) time for a primary cement job is to include the lead cement slurry due to potash.**

**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.**

**The pilot hole plugging procedure is approved as written.**

3. The minimum required fill of cement behind the **5-1/2** inch production casing is:

- ☒ Cement as proposed. 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. Variance approved to use flex line from BOP to choke manifold. Check condition of flexible line from BOP to choke manifold, replace if exterior is damaged or if line fails test. Line to be as straight as possible with no hard bends and is to be anchored according to Manufacturer's requirements. The flexible hose can be exchanged with a hose of equal size and equal or greater pressure rating. **Anchor requirements, specification sheet and hydrostatic pressure test certification matching the hose in service, to be onsite for review.** If the BLM inspector questions the straightness of the hose, a BLM engineer will be contacted and will review in the field or via picture supplied by inspector to determine if changes are required (operator shall expect delays if this occurs).
3. 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.**
  - 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.
4. Minimum working pressure of the blowout preventer (BOP) and related equipment (BOPE) required for drilling below the **9-5/8** inch intermediate casing shoe shall be **5000 (5M) psi. 5M system requires an HCR valve, remote kill line and annular to match. The remote kill line is to be installed prior to testing the system and tested to stack pressure.**
5. The appropriate BLM office shall be notified a minimum of 4 hours in advance for a representative to witness the tests.
  - a. In potash areas, 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. For all casing strings, casing cut-off and BOP installation can be initiated at twelve hours after bumping the plug. However, **no tests** shall commence until the cement has had a minimum of 24 hours setup time.
  - 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.

**CRW 071712**

## **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

## **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).

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 ground level on a plate containing the pertinent information for the plugged well.

## Seed Mixture for LPC Sand/Shinnery 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>
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