

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
White River Field Office  
73544 Hwy 64  
Meeker, CO 81641

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**NUMBER:** CO-110-2004-022-EA

**CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER** (optional): COC-66736

**PROJECT NAME:** APD #6602 (old #-#6601A X14 199)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** T1S, R99W, NENE sec.14, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.

**APPLICANT:** ENCANA OIL & GAS

**ISSUES AND CONCERNS** (optional):

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:**

*Background/Introduction* (optional): Proposed location is on a 1998 plugged and abandoned location.

**Proposed Action:** Applicant proposes to reenter and deepen a plugged well bore. Applicant will construct an access road of approx. 180' x 30' ROW (0.12 ac.), construct well pad (2.6 ac.), and if production is established, install pipeline (*no pipeline route submitted*). Total surface disturbance would be approx. 2.72 acres. If the well is a producer, areas not needed for production will be contoured and seeded. If the well is a non-producer, all disturbed areas will be contoured and seeded.

**No Action Alternative:** There would be no additional environmental impacts from the no action alternative.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:**

**NEED FOR THE ACTION:** To respond to the request by applicant to exercise lease rights and develop hydrocarbon reserves.

**PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:** The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-5:

Decision Language: “Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values.”

**AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES /  
MITIGATION MEASURES:**

**STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH:** In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

**CRITICAL ELEMENTS**

**AIR QUALITY**

*Affected Environment:* There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by the proposed action. During periods of low precipitation, air quality in the area of the proposed action is often diminished by dust caused by human disturbance.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during and after construction, due to dust being blown into the air. After adequate vegetation is reestablished, blowing dust should return to pre-construction levels.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* No increase in dust will occur.

*Mitigation:* Require water to be spread on the road surfaces to control fugitive.

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN**

*Affected Environment:* This area is not within a designated ACEC.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None*

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None*

*Mitigation: None*

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

*Affected Environment:* The proposed well location appears to have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Nickens, Foster and Reed 1978 {Centuries Research}, Compliance Dated 10/30/1978, Price 1982 {BLM}, Compliance Dated 6/30/1982, Metcalf 2003, Compliance Dated 1-13-2004). No cultural resources were identified during any of the original inventories on the old Teton Energy Yellow Creek Fed. 14-1 well location that appears to be the one selected by Encana for the reentry. The inventory by Metcalf has recorded two isolated finds that appear to be outside the area of direct construction impact for the well reentry.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* If the locational data provided is correct it appears that there should be no new impacts to cultural resources, provided all new disturbance is contained within the disturbance area of the old well location.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

*Mitigation:* (SS #2) In accordance with Onshore Order #1, III.E and ARPA 1979 as amended (AL, 96-95), the operator is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during construction, the operator is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the Authorized Officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the finding of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization

of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

All new construction for the proposed new well location must remain within the area of the previous well disturbance. Isolated finds 5RB 4710 and 4711 should be avoided during construction if at all feasible.

## **INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES**

*Affected Environment:* There are no known noxious weeds at the proposed well site. The invasive alien, cheatgrass occurs at the site. The problem weeds, mullein and bull thistle occur within one mile of the site, primarily in association with roadside borrow area disturbance.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The proposed action will create earthen disturbance providing safe sites for the establishment of invasive and non-native species. If not eradicated, these species will invade adjacent rangelands/native plant communities,

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There will be no change from the present situation.

*Mitigation:* Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas not immediately necessary for production with Native Seed mix #2. Monitor the project site for a minimum of three years post disturbance. Eradicate all invasive and non-native species using materials and methods approved by the authorized officer.

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

*Affected Environment:* Non-game populations associated with these ranges are widespread and common throughout sagebrush and juniper habitats in this Resource Area (e.g., green-tailed and spotted towhee, vesper and lark sparrows, golden-mantled ground squirrel). Since there are no woodlands associated with this project, the non-game community has little affinity for this area. There are no specialized or narrowly endemic species known to occupy the project area.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Approximately 2.7 acres of sagebrush, rabbit brush and forbs will be removed as a result of constructing this project. Although this action represents an incremental and longer term reduction in the extent of sagebrush habitat available for migratory bird breeding functions, implementation of this project would have no measurable influence on the abundance or distribution of breeding migratory birds even at the smallest landscape scale.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* Incremental reductions of sagebrush, as forage and cover for non-game wildlife, would not occur at this time or place.

*Mitigation:* None.

**THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES** (includes a finding on Standard 4)

*Affected Environment:* No threatened or endangered animal species are present in the vicinity of, or will be affected by, the proposed action.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* None.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* None.

*Mitigation:* None.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species:* Neither the proposed action, nor the no action alternative, is expected to have an influence on any threatened or endangered animals.

**THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES** (includes a finding on Standard 4)

*Affected Environment:* No Threatened or Endangered plant species are present in the vicinity of, or will be affected by the proposed action

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* None

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* None

*Mitigation:* None

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species:* There is no reasonable likelihood that the proposed action or no action alternative would have an influence on the condition or function of Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant species.

## **WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID**

*Affected Environment:* : There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at this site.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no action alternative.

*Mitigation:* The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

## **WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)**

*Affected Environment:* The well pad is located in Duck Creek and segment 13b, which is the mainstem of Yellow Creek, including all tributaries from the source to the confluence with the White River. A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. All actions are within the White River watershed.

The State has designated this segment as "Use Protected". They further classified this stream segment as Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The state has further defined water quality parameters with table values. These standards reflect the ambient water quality and define maximum allowable concentrations for the various water quality parameters. The anti-degradation rule does not apply to segments that are considered to be use protected. For these drainages, only the parameters listed in the table apply.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The area where the proposed action is located appears to not be a very defined drainage. Problems that could arise from the proposed action would be an increase in sediment transport. Annual runoff from this watershed is dynamic and dependent on some aspects we control, such as the amount of vegetation retained for watershed protection and vegetation density. Depleting the vegetation cover needed to protect watersheds from raindrop impact and runoff could cause short-term erosion problems and increased sedimentation to Yellow Creek and on down to the White River until successful BMPs have been implemented and prove to be successful. The magnitude of these impacts is dependent on the amount of surface disturbance and climatic conditions during the time the soils are exposed to the elements.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* Impacts from the no-action alternative are not anticipated.

*Mitigation:* Efforts need to be made to keep sediment from leaving the site. Apply the following Conditions of Approval listed in Appendix B of the White River ROD/RMP to help minimize surface disturbing impacts:

4. When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil should be stripped from the surface of the location and stockpiled for reclamation once the location is abandoned. If well becomes a producing well, spread the topsoil pile and seed to reduce wind and water erosion.
6. All sediment control structures or disposal pits will be designed to contain a 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Storage volumes within these structures will have a design life of 25 years.
8. All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality:* The proposed action will not have an affect on Duck Creek, which is currently well within the standards set by the State, and thus meets the Public Land Health Standard.

#### **WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)**

*Affected Environment:* There are no wetlands or riparian zones present within the proposed project area.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* None.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* None.

*Mitigation:* None.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems:* No riparian systems occur within the proposed project area.

#### **WILDERNESS**

*Affected Environment:* There are no wilderness study areas within the project area.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* None.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* None.

*Mitigation:* None.

**CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:**

No flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist within the area affected by the proposed action. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

**NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS**

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

**SOILS** (includes a finding on Standard 1)

*Affected Environment:* The soils have been mapped in an order III soil survey by NRCS and are available from the office for review. Refer to the table below for the type of soils affected by the proposed action.

Proposed action	Soil Number	Soil Name	Soil pH	Permeability	Water Capacity	RunOff	Erosion Potential	Range site	Slope
Well Pad	75	Rentsac-Piceance complex	6.6-8.4	2.0-6.0	.012-0.16	Medium	Moderate to high	PJ woodland/Rolling Loam	2-30%

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Short-term impacts would be expected from any surface disturbing activity. Impacts from the proposed action would be loss of the protective vegetation cover, possible increase in salt and sedimentation during storm events and soil compaction from trenching equipment. These impacts could continue until successful re-vegetation has occurred.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* In the no-action alternative, neither the surface disturbance nor the impacts to soils resources would occur.

*Mitigation:* Re-establishing vegetation as soon as allowable would be favorable to control any erosion problems that may occur. Best management practices will need to be implemented if salts leaching from soils become a problem on the surface.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils:* The proposed action will not affect the soil type's ability to meet the Land Health Standard.

**VEGETATION** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

*Affected Environment:* The existing well location is located on a Rolling Loam range site dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The proposed action will create minor, though not significant disturbance to existing vegetation in the area of the proposed action.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There will be no change from the present situation.

*Mitigation:* Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with native seed mix #2

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities* (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The area of the proposed action will continue to meet the Standard.

### **WILDLIFE, AQUATIC** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

*Affected Environment:* There is no aquatic wildlife present within the proposed area.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* None.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* None.

*Mitigation:* None.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities* (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): No aquatic wildlife exists within the proposed area.

### **WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

*Affected Environment:* This proposed well is located off County Road 24X and consists of young sagebrush, rabbit brush and various forbs. No pinyon or juniper trees exist on the pad location, or in close proximity to the project area. Approximately 2.7 acres of disturbance are expected from completing this project. The project site falls within normal winter range for mule deer and elk. An ephemeral draw exists to the northeast of the pad.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The construction of this project will result in a long-term increase of traffic associated with commercial oil/gas related activities.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* Failure to construct this well would reduce short-term construction activity levels in this area. Longer term activity associated with this well would also be reduced. However, avoiding the disturbance associated with this well would not be considered advantageous to wildlife resources since new locations, likely involving greater surface disturbance and more involved access, would likely be proposed to offset the loss.

*Mitigation:* Pad corners will be rounded to avoid the potential deposition of soil associated with pad construction into the ephemeral draw.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities* (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): This project would not jeopardize the viability of any animal population. It would have no significant consequence on terrestrial habitat condition, utility, or function, nor have any discernible affect on animal abundance or distribution at any landscape scale.

**OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS:** For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management		X	
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals			X
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Paleontology			
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations	X		
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

## **GEOLOGY AND MINERALS**

*Affected Environment:* Encana’s wells 6602 is a re-entry and deepening of an existing well located in the area identified in the RMP as available for multi mineral and sodium leasing. The surface geologic formation of the well locations is Uinta and Bass’s targeted zone is in the Mancos. During drilling potential water, oil shale, sodium, and gas zones will be encountered from surface to the targeted zone. Aquifers that will be encountered during drilling are the Perched in the Uinta, the A-groove, B-groove and the Dissolution Surface in the Green River formation. This area is known for difficulties in drilling and cementing. Oil shale and sodium resources are also found in the Green River formation.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Re-entry and deepening of the well should not adversely affect the water, sodium and oil shale resources. Completion

procedure for the additional drilling depth isolates the formations and will prevent the migration of gas, water, and oil between the lower formations. Development of these wells will deplete the hydrocarbon resources in the targeted formation.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None*

*Mitigation: None*

## **PALEONTOLOGY**

*Affected Environment:* The proposed well location is in an area mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Category I formation meaning it is a known producer of scientifically important fossil resources.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* There is a potential, should it become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation for the well pad or the reserve/blooiie pit to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

*Mitigation:* A monitor shall be present at all times should it become necessary to excavate into the bedrock substrate to level the pad or construct the reserve/blooiie pit. The paleontologist shall be present prior to the initiation of excavation into bedrock.

## **RECREATION**

*Affected Environment:* The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The public will lose approximately 3 acres of dispersed recreation potential while wells are in operation. The public will most likely not recreate in the vicinity of these facilities and will be dispersed elsewhere. If action coincides with hunting seasons (September through November) it will most likely disrupt the experience sought by those recreationalists and will most likely result in complaints from hunters that have historically used this area.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* No dispersed recreation will be impacted.

*Mitigation:* Make attempt to avoid fall hunting season.

## **VISUAL RESOURCES**

*Affected Environment:* The proposed action is located within a VRM III area. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The proposed action would be located adjacent to county road RBC #24X on a relatively flat area of sagebrush with pinyon/juniper scattered on low rolling hills as a backdrop, and higher hills in the distance. A casual observer traveling on RBC #24X would notice the well pad and production facilities in passing but the well pad would not dominate the view. The level of change to the existing character of the landscape would be less than moderate, and the standards of the VRM III classification are retained.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no additional environmental consequences from the no action alternative.

*Mitigation:* Paint all production facilities Juniper Green to blend with and mimic background of scattered pinyon/juniper vegetation.

## **WILD HORSES**

*Affected Environment:* The proposed action is located in the North Piceance Wild Horse Herd Area (NPHA). Wild horses are no longer managed in this portion of the NPHA. At least 7 non-breeding horses (studs) remain in the NPHA to live out their natural lives.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* None

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* None

*Mitigation:* None

**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:** Cumulative impacts from oil and gas development were analyzed in the White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) completed in June 1996. Current development, including the proposed action, has not exceeded the foreseeable development analyzed in the PRMP/FEIS.

**PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:** BLM resource specialists

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Area of Responsibility</b>
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Air Quality

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Area of Responsibility</b>
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Marty O'Mara	HazMat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Soils
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation
Scott Pavey	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	NRS	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Dagget	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Recreation Planner	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	Wild Horse Specialist	Wild Horses

# **Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)**

**CO-110-2004-022-EA**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE:** The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

**DECISION/RATIONALE:** It is my decision to approve the development of this project as described in the proposed action, with the mitigation measures listed below. This development, with mitigation, is consistent with the decisions in the White River ROD/RMP, and environmental impacts will be minimal.

## **MITIGATION MEASURES:**

1. Require water to be spread on the road surfaces to control fugitive.

2. (SS #2) In accordance with Onshore Order #1, III.E and ARPA 1979 as amended (AL, 96-95), the operator is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during construction, the operator is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the Authorized Officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the finding of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization

of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

All new construction for the proposed new well location must remain within the area of the previous well disturbance. Isolated finds 5RB 4710 and 4711 should be avoided during construction if at all feasible.

3. Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas not immediately necessary for production with Native Seed mix #2. Monitor the project site for a minimum of three years post disturbance. Eradicate all invasive and non-native species using materials and methods approved by the authorized officer.
4. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.
5. Efforts need to be made to keep sediment from leaving the site. Apply the following Conditions of Approval listed in Appendix B of the White River ROD/RMP to help minimize surface disturbing impacts:
6. When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil should be stripped from the surface of the location and stockpiled for reclamation once the location is abandoned. If well becomes a producing well, spread the topsoil pile and seed to reduce wind and water erosion.
7. All sediment control structures or disposal pits will be designed to contain a 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Storage volumes within these structures will have a design life of 25 years.
8. All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.
9. Re-establishing vegetation as soon as allowable would be favorable to control any erosion problems that may occur. Best management practices will need to be implemented if salts leaching from soils become a problem on the surface.
10. Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with native seed mix #2

11. Pad corners will be rounded to avoid the potential deposition of soil associated with pad construction into the ephemeral draw.

12. A monitor shall be present at all times should it become necessary to excavate into the bedrock substrate to level the pad or construct the reserve/blooiie pit. The paleontologist shall be present prior to the initiation of excavation into bedrock.

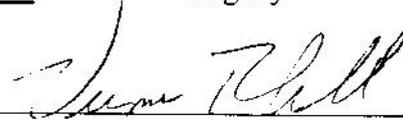
13. Make attempt to avoid fall hunting season.

14. Paint all production facilities Juniper Green to blend with and mimic background of scattered pinyon/juniper vegetation.

**NAME OF PREPARER:** Keith Whitaker

**NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:** James A. Cagney

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:**



Field Manager

**DATE SIGNED:**

2/11/04