

Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenarios

**Federal Leadership
Forum –
Interagency
Reference Guide
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Federal Leadership Forum

Sponsor of RFD/CEA interagency reference guide

- ◆ **Membership: BLM, USFS, EPA, NPS, USFWS**
- ◆ **Goal: Establish a quality, predictable, consistent NEPA process for oil and gas development.**
- ◆ **Tasks/products**
 - **Coordination**
 - **NEPA guidelines for oil & gas**
 - **Air quality modeling protocols**
 - **Assessments as NEPA tools**
 - **Training**

Reference Guide Contents

- ◆ Important concepts – short definitions
- ◆ Analysis process for oil & gas decisions
 - Types of decisions
 - Technical information
 - ◆ RFD – comprehensive definition
 - ◆ Use of RFDs
 - ◆ Planning-project feedback
 - ◆ Reasonably foreseeable future actions

Reference Guide Contents (cont'd)

◆ **Analysis of effects**

- **Beginning the process** (Issue identification, information needed)
 - **Scope of cumulative effects analysis**
 - **Determining scale**
 - **Alternatives to a proposed action**
 - **Piecemeal or incremental analysis**
 - **Complex situations**
- ## ◆ **Appendices, including criteria for determining RFD adequacy**

BLM IM 2004-089 Contents

- ◆ **What is an RFD Scenario? (Short definition)**
- ◆ **Monitoring effects of oil & gas activity**
- ◆ **Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario (Detailed description)**
- ◆ **Information in the RFD report**
- ◆ **Surface disturbance estimates**
- ◆ **Peer review**
- ◆ **Recommended criteria for an adequate RFD study & report**
- ◆ **RFD content and organization**

An RFD is ...

- ...a baseline projection (scenario) of oil and gas exploration, development, production, and reclamation for a defined area and period of time.**
- ...based on geology, past & current activities, technology, engineering practices.**
- ...presented in a technical report.**
- ...prepared by qualified specialists.**
- ...subject to peer review.**

FLF ref. guide & BLM IM

An RFD is a tool for...

- ...analyzing effects from oil & gas activity resulting from a leasing decision
- ...determining need for revision of a management plan (leasing decision)
- ...providing context for project decisions
- ...informing decisions that balance oil & gas management with other resources

FLF ref. guide & BLM IM

RFD is not...

...a “threshold” for a number of wells that can be drilled in a particular area.

(FLF ref. guide & BLM IM)

...restricted to jurisdictional boundaries

(FLF ref. guide & BLM IM)

...a planning decision. *(BLM IM)*

...a “no action” alternative in a NEPA document. *(BLM IM)*

FLF Ref. Guide & BLM IM

RFD report includes...

- ◆ **Description of subsurface geology**
- ◆ **Description of past and present exploration, development, production**
- ◆ **Type and amount of expected future activities**
- ◆ **Nature of anticipated production**
- ◆ **Description of anticipated surface uses**
- ◆ **Net disturbance**
- ◆ **Documentation/reasoning for all conclusions**

RFD report includes...

◆ Factors of development

- ◆ Geology
- ◆ Past & present oil & gas activity
- ◆ Economics
- ◆ Technology
- ◆ Physical limitations on access
- ◆ Infrastructure (existing & anticipated)
- ◆ Transportation

RFD and cumulative effects

- ◆ RFD + other actions (RFFAs) → cumulative effects
- ◆ RFD → issues → scope of analysis
- ◆ RFD effects area + affected resources → spatial boundaries for cum. effects
- ◆ Effects area > planning (RFD) area

RFD and alternatives to proposed action for leasing

- ◆ RFD = baseline (standard lease terms, no restrictions)
- ◆ Proposed leasing action
 - RFD (baseline), or
 - Variation of RFD
- ◆ Alternatives to proposed leasing action
 - RFD (baseline), or
 - Variations of RFD
- ◆ Range – Baseline to restricted development

Range of alternatives

- ◆ **RFD (baseline, unrestricted development)**
- ◆ **No leasing**
- ◆ **Mitigation of effects → constraints on leasing → variations of RFD**
- ◆ **No action (not “no leasing”)**

Complex situations

- ◆ **New leasing decisions in developed (leased) areas**
- ◆ **Leasing decisions in areas of mixed land ownership**

Key points

- ◆ RFD must be developed by qualified professionals.
- ◆ RFD is not a limit.
- ◆ RFD conclusions must be supported.
- ◆ RFD report must be professionally presented, subject to peer review.



**And they all lived
happily ever after.**