

APPENDIX A

Criteria for meeting "Acceptable Plan" in Oil and Gas Lease Terms Desolation Flats Natural Gas Project

The following criteria are provided as guidance for preparing mitigative plans for any surface disturbing activity proposed in the Rock Springs portion of the DFPA. The Rock Springs portion of the DFPA lies within Class II visual resource management area and the area known as the Monument Valley Management Area. These criteria are not all inclusive but are identified as points that should be considered when developing such mitigative plans.

Disturbance Areas

1. Disturbance to pad locations and associated roads should be kept to the minimum needed to safely conducted operations.
2. Use of pad drilling (multiple wells at one surface site) when possible.

Transportation Planning

1. Keep miles of roads/trails to a minimum.
2. All roads should be designed by a professional engineer.
3. Roads should be engineered to avoid concentrating overland flow of water. Roads should be designed and placed to avoid drainage areas. If drainage areas cannot be avoided, then engineered with appropriate spacing of crossings with energy dispersion structures (i.e, armored low-water crossings).
4. Reduce cut and fill areas.
5. Reduce road standards when feasible (i.e., width).
6. Require durable surfacing (i.e, gravel). Gravel according to the transportation plan and Manual 9113 road standards.
7. Layout location of main roads (during transportation planning).
8. Maintenance including surveys of channel conditions below engineered portions of culvert discharges. Timely repair of problems when found.

Visual Resource Management (VRM) - VRM Class II

1. All disturbance would need to meet the Class II VRM objectives. The objective for Class II is to retain the existing character of the landscape. Level of change should be low. Activities may be seen but should not detract the attention of the casual observer. Any change must repeat the basic elements (line, form, color, texture) found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape (Manual 8410-1).

APPENDIX A - ACCEPTABLE PLAN CRITERIA

2. Roads should be designed to avoid straight lines to protect the visual integrity of the Class II viewshed.
3. Pad locations should be hidden by topographical features.
4. Develop "key observation points" for individual actions and require visibility analysis modeling and/or photographic simulations.
5. Centralize production facilities whenever possible.
6. Screen locations where possible.
7. Reduce production facility dimensions (height, width, minimum needed to operate).
8. Use low contrast, non-reflective paint for production facilities.
9. Reduce contrast of base material color and texture (i.e., use of native gravel if available).
10. Follow topographic features (line, form) in order to reduce visibility of disturbance.

Reclamation

1. Reclamation will be done as soon as possible after disturbance and will be in accordance with the approved reclamation plan (as outlined in the EIS).
2. All actions will require an Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Restoration Plan (ERRP) and will conform to the Wyoming policy on reclamation.
3. Protect existing native vegetation.
4. Minimize disturbance of existing environment.
5. Soil stabilization via establishment of ground cover.
6. Establishment of native vegetation /site stabilization (3-5 years). Monitoring of reclamation success.
7. Use of native, certified weed-free seed.
8. Prompt treatment of noxious weed infestations.
9. Restore original contours on pad and road construction.
10. Leave surface as rough as possible.

Paleontological Resources

1. On-the-ground surveys will be required prior to any surface disturbing activity.

APPENDIX A - ACCEPTABLE PLAN CRITERIA

Cultural Resources

1. Follow BLM protocol for implementation of the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement.
2. Consultation with Native American groups should certain features be found (e.g. rock art, stone circles, burials, cairns, flat-top mesas.)

Geological Formations/Hazards (lease term)

1. Avoid slopes in excess of 25 percent
2. Avoid highly erosive areas.

Wildlife

1. Seasonal restriction for mule deer and antelope crucial winter range (11/15-4/30).
2. Avoid raptor concentration areas and seasonal restriction for individual raptor nests (2/1-7/31 nesting and 11/15 - 4/30 for winter concentration areas).
3. Mountain plover aggregation areas will be surveyed in accordance with the FWS's requirements for mountain plovers.
4. Prairie dog town/complexes where possible and if not avoided then cleared for black-footed ferrets.
5. Protection of migratory birds (pit netting).

Soils/Watershed

1. Construction with frozen material or during periods when the soil is saturated or when watershed damage is likely to occur is prohibited.
2. Avoid disturbance within 100 ft of inner gorge of intermittent or ephemeral drainages.
3. Require an erosion control plan.
4. Salvage and the subsequent replacement of topsoil whenever possible (topsoil depth to be determined case-by-case).
5. Avoid erosive soils when possible, otherwise design and construction should be done in such a manner to reduce erosion.
6. Construction across ephemeral drainages would be restricted until after spring runoff.
7. Reserve pits should not be located in areas where groundwater is less than 50 ft and soil permeability is greater than 10(-7) cm/hr.
8. Lining of pits should be decided on a case-by-case basis.

APPENDIX A - ACCEPTABLE PLAN CRITERIA

9. Seeding of borrow areas.
10. No surface disposal of produced water or surface discharge from water wells.
11. Pipeline placement will be determined based on site-specific conditions. Any surface pipelines crossing roads or trails will be buried. When buried pipelines are proposed, they will follow and be placed on the edge of roadways.

Scientific Values (RMP)

1. Protect integrity of paleontological and cultural values.

Other

1. Use of remote sensing devices to reduce number of well visits.