

Ahlstrand, Dennis

From: Lindblom, Steven
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2009 1:46 PM
To: Ahlstrand, Dennis
Subject: FW: Pending COGCC 4M Monitoring Well APDs

From: Neslin, David
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2009 8:42 AM
To: Lindblom, Steven; Spray, Karen
Cc: Ahlstrand, Dennis; Baldwin, Debbie; Weems, Mark; Walker, Valerie; 'Denny Foust'; 'Cindy Gray'
Subject: RE: Pending COGCC 4M Monitoring Well APDs

Thanks Karen and Steve. I approve the requested variance. Dave

From: Lindblom, Steven
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2009 8:08 AM
To: Spray, Karen; Neslin, David
Cc: Ahlstrand, Dennis; Baldwin, Debbie; Weems, Mark; Walker, Valerie; 'Denny Foust'; 'Cindy Gray'
Subject: RE: Pending COGCC 4M Monitoring Well APDs

Director Neslin:

As we discussed yesterday, the proposed 4M monitoring wells in La Plata County are an extension of the 3M monitoring well network. They will be used to monitor water levels and formation pressures only and will not be used to extract any mineral resource and, as such, they will not impact any mineral rights nor will they deplete any mineral resource. Given that these are not oil and gas wells, it is not necessary that they be permitted under COGCC regulations.

However, COGCC staff prefers that they are permitted so that the locations and completion information will be available to the public on our database. Drilling and completion plans will be approved by the COGCC Engineering Group prior to initiation of field activities.

Given these circumstances and the fact that landowners within ¼ mile of the locations were noticed under the La Plata County permit process, the COGCC staff requests a waiver of the 20 day public comment period required under Rule 305.c for the Form 2As.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Steven Lindblom, P.G.
Northeast Environmental Supervisor
Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

From: Spray, Karen
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 10:55 AM
To: Neslin, David
Cc: Ahlstrand, Dennis; Baldwin, Debbie; Lindblom, Steven; Weems, Mark; Walker, Valerie; 'Denny Foust'; Cindy Gray
Subject: Pending COGCC 4M Monitoring Well APDs
Importance: High

Dave:

COGCC staff and our contractor, Souder Miller Associates (SMA), are in the process of filing APDs for four monitoring wells to be installed along the Outcrop in La Plata County. These wells will complete the monitoring network along the San Juan Basin Outcrop and are a part of the overall 4M project that was funded by special legislative appropriation in 2007/2008. It is our intent to begin drilling these wells in mid-September 2009 to complete the bulk of the field work before winter weather sets in. These wells technically do not require APDs since they are monitoring wells only; however staff prefers to have them tracked within our COGIS system and this best provides that capability.

In order to facilitate getting into the field as soon as possible, staff have requested and obtained written Form 2A review waivers from both the Local Governmental Designee (Victoria Schmitt) and DOW (Jon Holst) (attached). Internally our Form 2 and 2A reviews will be streamlined for rapid turnaround. A matter of concern is the COGCC requirement for a 20-day public comment period which would cost us valuable field time. Staff would like to offer the following public comment alternative: all surface owners within ¼ mile of each of the monitoring well locations were notified of our pending well installation activities by certified letter on August 21, 2009 as a part of the La Plata County permitting process. Staff is requesting that this notification be accepted as the public comment period thereby allowing drilling to commence on schedule in mid-September.

With our current schedule field operations will extend into mid-November 2009. Any delays could cost us both daylight hours (we are only drilling during the day) and optimal weather conditions. As such, staff is requesting that these permit applications be approved and signed by the Director as soon as possible.

Please feel free to email or call either me or Steve Lindblom with any questions or comments. We appreciate everyone's assistance with this final leg in the 4M project tasks.

Thank-you,

Karen

Karen L. Spray, PG
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