SLIDES: Master Development Plans (MDPs): Oil and Gas Projects

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Master Development Plans (MDPs)

Oil and Gas Projects
When is an MDP Appropriate?

- Large scale oil and gas projects
- One or more leases
- 2 to 5 Year Development Horizon
- Single or multiple operators
- BLM is developing policy on when it is appropriate
When is an MDP Appropriate?

Exploration and/or development activities can be combined.

BMPs can be applied to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts.
Best Management Practices

- Gathering System/Centralized Facilities
- Multi – well pads
- Transportation Planning
- Schedule/Sequence
- Concentrated Development
Level of Activity in the MDP?

- Project Definition
- Known vs Unknown?
- Not necessary to include all potential future development in an area
- Apply BMPs effectively
Example - Whitewater Unit

- Surface/Mineral
- Ownership
  - Fed/Fed 72.38%
  - Pri/Pri 12.63%
  - GJ/GJ 7.96%
  - Pri/Fed 6.62%
  - Fed/Pri 0.41%

90,000 acres
Existing Oil and Gas Development

- Existing well pads private reclaimed

- No current gas production*
Proposed Action – Not Reasonable

- 49 Proposed Well Pads/500wells
  - Multi Well Pads
  - Gathering Systems
  - Remote Telemetry
  - Existing Roads
Proposed Action - Reasonable

- 12 Well Pads
- 12 to 20 Wells
  - Multi Well Pads
  - Gathering Systems
  - Remote Telemetry
  - Existing Roads

Site-Specific Surveys
What to include in an MDP

Project Description – detail, detail, detail

- Access (existing, upgrades required?)
- Disturbance – acres (roads, pads, pipelines, facilities)
- Location of proposed disturbance
- Water supply, water use, and water disposal
- Schedule (sequence)
- Transportation planning - traffic
- Site-specific surveys (cultural, wetland, biological)
Incorporate BMPs into Proposal

- Review BLM GIS data – issues
- Review the Land Use Plan - RMP
- Review and incorporate Standard Conditions
- Operator/BLM Communications
- Review public scoping comments and incorporate BMPs where appropriate
Update the MDP

- MDP becomes one big BMP
- Update throughout the NEPA process
  - Public Scoping
  - Communication with BLM/Contractor
  - Public Comment
- MDP Must Match the NEPA Document
Comprehensive MDP

- BMPs already incorporated in the Proposal
- Avoid a long list of Conditions of Approval
- Revise throughout the NEPA process
Traditional Development vs. MDP/BMP Development?

Objective: Using Planning To Minimize the Footprint of Oil and Gas Operations

6 coalbed natural gas wells, 2 miles of 2-track road, 2 miles of pipelines and power buried in the road. Can you find it?
What is the impact of poor planning?
Planned vs. Unplanned Development

- **Planning Reduces**
  - Disturbance
  - Habitat Loss
  - Soil Erosion
  - Visual Impacts

- **Planning Saves**
  - Money

This area could have benefited from a Master Development Plan to reduce approximately 75% of the surface disturbance.

Each action was permitted independently without an overall development plan.
Planned Development
Avoid Multiple Points of Access

This well pad has three points of well access.
Example: One Point of Access for Every Well Pad

Common Water, Gas, Electricity, Road Corridor
Summary

Select Reasonable Scale for MDP

Define the Project

Know the Resources

Incorporate the BMPs

Continue to revise/adapt throughout the process