

E-Mail Comment Received

November 2, 2006

NEPA Modernization (CE)
Attn: Associate Director for NEPA Oversight
722 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington DC 20503

Re: Comments on Proposed Guidance
Council on Environmental Quality
The National Environmental Policy Act
Establishing, Revising, and Using Categorical
Exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act

Dear Sir or Madam:

For the love of all that's right and holy, what are you guys doing?? I've read the National Registry verbiage on the CE vs EIS vs EA and can't believe the waste! There were more trees lost in printing that bit alone than you'll ever hope to protect. Let me offer a suggestion that you might want to apply across the board in future plans.

- 1) Hire people with common sense.
- 2) Allow said people to apply same.
- 3) Make it a crime to deter and/or detract from the implementation of these procedures. (Professional postcard writers representing the "Black Spotted, 5 legged, neutered, South American Migrating Dung Beetle" for example)
- 4) Get the FS and the BLM on the same page. (The BLM has the knowledge, database, and procedural outline to do a good job if the bureaucrats are kept out of the way. The FS carries too much baggage and too many power starved biologists to do a proper job of evaluation.)
- 5) And yes I know-" The BLM is under regulations and the FS runs by laws." That is the problem! The ANTI-EVERYTHING groups got it figured out and now the FS has become a jobs program for the Federal Government. Now they've targeted the BLM and will do the same to them.

Why does the seismic industry have to explain to you guys each and every time that we run a low impact operation that is in and out in very little time and in most cases leave little or no trace that we were ever there. Require

bonding, require prior permit procedures that are consistent across boundaries, require documentation of completion etc. But please, don't ask us to monitor and protect prairie dogs on a FS tract while sportsmen are shooting them on the adjacent 40 acre tract controlled by the BLM. Don't deny usage of a two-track road to the seismic crew when hunters, ranchers and bird watchers can use the same without restriction. Don't require some phony radius of protection to a bird that is still hunted every season. Don't deny access to frozen grounds in the winter because the orange flagging might be a sight blemish on the "pristine" landscape. (See number one above-soy based spray paint doesn't last long on the snow in North Dakota in the winter!)

I could go on with examples of five (5) year delays to permit a 40 acre offset well in the middle of the Powder River Basin on lands that were once homesteaded and ranched but now fall under the FS "Vision of Serenity" program but enough is enough. Let us get on with seismic exploration in order to reduce our dependency on outside sources. Let "multiple use" mean just that. Allow agencies to use common sense and reduce the paper load and loss of their time as well as that of industry.

Thank You,

Wayne L. Ewert
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