



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Pacific OCS Region
770 Paseo Camarillo, 2nd Floor
Camarillo, CA 93010-6064

MAY 03 2013

Mr. David J. Rose
Attorney-in-Fact
Plains Exploration & Production Company
201 South Broadway
Orcutt, CA 93455-4606

Re: Approval of Proposed Revisions to Platform Hidalgo DPP to Develop Western Half NW/4 of Lease OCS-P 0450

Dear Mr. Rose:

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) completed its review of the proposed revisions to the Development and Production Plan (DPP) for Point Arguello Unit Platform Hidalgo, entitled *Revisions to the Platform Hidalgo Development and Production Plan to Include Development of the Western Half of NW/4 of Lease OCS-P 0450*. Based on our completed review, we conclude that the project is technically and environmentally sound, and complies with federal OCS oil and gas operating regulations and the National Environmental Policy Act.

BOEM received notification on March 11, 2013, from the California Coastal Commission (CCC) that the proposed revisions will not cause effects on California's coastal uses and resources substantially different than those originally reviewed by the Commission, and that no additional federal consistency review is needed. Because the Point Arguello Field DPPs have all previously received CCC concurrence with their certifications of coastal zone consistency, the March 11, 2013, notification from the CCC means the original concurrence now also applies to the subject revisions. Since there are no substantial changes in the project or significant changes identified in the available information or impacts, BOEM hereby approves the revisions to the Platform Hidalgo DPP, pursuant to 30 CFR 550.270, with the following conditions of approval:

1. PXP shall ensure thorough consultation with the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District so that the proposed project provides emission offsets for the maximum allowable project emissions expected, consistent with that entity's applicable rules and regulations (PXP Environmental Evaluation, p. 87).
2. PXP will take the following measures when murrelets are present in the project area (PXP Environmental Evaluation, p. 77):

- a. Minimization of use and wattage of night lighting to the extent feasible while not compromising safety, spill detection capabilities or platform operations,
 - b. Shielding of lights, covering of filaments and directing lighting downward as much as is feasible,
 - c. Requiring that all marine vessels associated with the project also employ measures 2(a) and 2(b), above, and
 - d. Developing a comprehensive monitoring program for the waters around the platform for Scripps's and Guadalupe murrelets, Ashy Storm-petrel and Cassin's auklet.
3. PXP shall consult with the Joint Oil/Fisheries Liaison Office (JOFLO, PXP Biological Evaluation, p.53) in the following circumstances:
- a. When marine vessels are used for the project, to ensure use of JOFLO approved traffic corridors, and
 - b. To resolve disputes over alleged damage to commercial fishing gear arising from the project.
4. All personnel associated with marine support vessel operations should be trained with the Wildlife and Fisheries Training video (Pacific Operators Offshore, LLC, 2009).

This approval covers the DPP revisions received by BOEM on October 12, 2012, and deemed submitted on November 15, 2012, for development of the western half of NW/4 of Lease OCS-P 0450. PXP must obtain approval for Applications for Permit to Drill and any subsequent production activity approvals from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement prior to commencing operations.

Please keep our office advised of any further changes to the DPP. If you have any questions, please contact Allan Shareghi at (805)389-7704 or Chima Ojukwu at (805)389-7742.

Sincerely,



Joan Barminski
Regional Supervisor
Office of Strategic Resources

cc: Mr. Jaron Ming, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
Dr. Charles Lester, California Coastal Commission
Mr. Doug Anthony, County of Santa Barbara Energy Division
Mr. Terry Oda, U.S. EPA Region 9