



**Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form**

This form is to be completed before the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) uses one or more Categorical Exclusions (CEs) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a specific action or group of actions, as appropriate. More information on the Council's NEPA compliance and use of CEs can be found in the Council's [NEPA Procedures](#).

Proposed Action Title:

Proposed Action Location: *(State, County/Parish)*

Proposed Action Description:

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

Council Use of Member Categorical Exclusion(s)

If the Categorical Exclusion(s) was established by a Federal agency Council member, complete the following. If not, leave this section blank and proceed to the segmentation section.

Member with Categorical Exclusion(s)

Has the member with CE(s) advised the Council in writing that use of the CE(s) would be appropriate for the specific action under consideration by the Council, including consideration of segmentation and extraordinary circumstances (as described below)?

Yes No

Segmentation

Has the proposed action been segmented to meet the definition of a Categorical Exclusion? (In making this determination, the Council should consider whether the action has independent utility.)

Yes No

Extraordinary Circumstances

In considering whether to use a Categorical Exclusion for a given action, agencies must review whether there may be extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant environmental effect and, therefore, warrant further review pursuant to NEPA. Guidance on the review of potential extraordinary circumstances can be found in Section 4(e) of the Council's NEPA Procedures. The potential extraordinary circumstances listed below are set forth in the Council's NEPA Procedures.

The Council, in cooperation with the sponsor of the activity, has considered the following potential extraordinary circumstances, where applicable, and has made the following determinations. (By checking the "No" box, the Council is indicating that the activity under review would not result in the corresponding potential extraordinary circumstance.)

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Yes | No | 1. Is there a reasonable likelihood of substantial scientific controversy regarding the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action? |
| Yes | No | 2. Are there Tribal concerns with actions that impact Tribal lands or resources that are sufficient to constitute an extraordinary circumstance? |
| Yes | No | 3. Is there a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting environmentally sensitive resources? Environmentally sensitive resources include but are not limited to: |

- a. Species that are federally listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, or their proposed or designated critical habitats; and
- b. Properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Yes	No	4. Is there a reasonable likelihood of impacts that are highly uncertain or involve unknown risks or is there a substantial scientific controversy over the effects?
Yes	No	5. Is there a reasonable likelihood of air pollution at levels of concern or otherwise requiring a formal conformity determination under the Clean Air Act?
Yes	No	6. Is there a reasonable likelihood of a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (see Executive Order 12898)?
Yes	No	7. Is there a reasonable likelihood of contributing to the introduction or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species or actions that may promote the introduction, or spread of such species (see Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?
Yes	No	8. Is there a reasonable likelihood of a release of petroleum, oils, or lubricants (except from a properly functioning engine or vehicle) or reportable releases of hazardous or toxic substances as specified in 40 CFR part 302 (Designation, Reportable Quantities, and Notification); or where the proposed action results in the requirement to develop or amend a Spill Prevention, Control, or Countermeasures Plan in accordance with the Oil Pollution Prevention regulation?

Supplemental Information

Where appropriate, the following table should be used to provide additional information regarding the review of potential extraordinary circumstances and compliance with other applicable laws. The purpose of this table is to ensure that there is adequate information for specific findings regarding potential extraordinary circumstances.

Supplemental information and documentation is not needed for each individual finding regarding the potential extraordinary circumstances listed above. Specifically, the nature of an activity under review may be such that a reasonable person could conclude that there is a very low potential for a particular type of extraordinary circumstance to exist. For example, it would be reasonable to conclude that the simple act of acquiring land for conservation purposes (where

there are no other associated actions) does not present a reasonable likelihood of a release of petroleum, oils, lubricants, or hazardous or toxic substances.

For some types of activities, no supplemental information may be needed to support a finding that there are no extraordinary circumstances. For example, where the activity under review is solely planning (with no associated implementation activity), it may be reasonable to conclude that none of the extraordinary circumstances listed above would apply. In such cases, the table below would be left blank.

In other cases, it may be appropriate to include supplemental information to ensure that there is an adequate basis for a finding regarding a particular extraordinary circumstance. For example, it might be appropriate in some cases to document coordination and/or consultation with the appropriate agency regarding compliance with a potentially applicable law (such as the Endangered Species Act). In those cases, the table below should be used to provide the supplemental information.

Agency or Authority Consulted	Agency or Authority Representative: Name, Office & Phone	Date of Consultation	Notes: Topic discussed, relevant details, and conclusions. (This can include reference to other information on file and/or attached for the given action.)

Additional supplemental information may be attached, as appropriate. Indicate below whether additional supplemental information is attached.

Additional Information Attached: Yes No

If “Yes”, indicate the subject:

Determination by Responsible Official

Based on my review of the proposed action, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified Categorical Exclusion(s), the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby Categorically Excluded from further NEPA review.

Responsible Official (Name)

Justin R. Ehrenwerth

Responsible Official (Signature)

Justin R. Ehrenwerth

Date

Dec 10, 2015

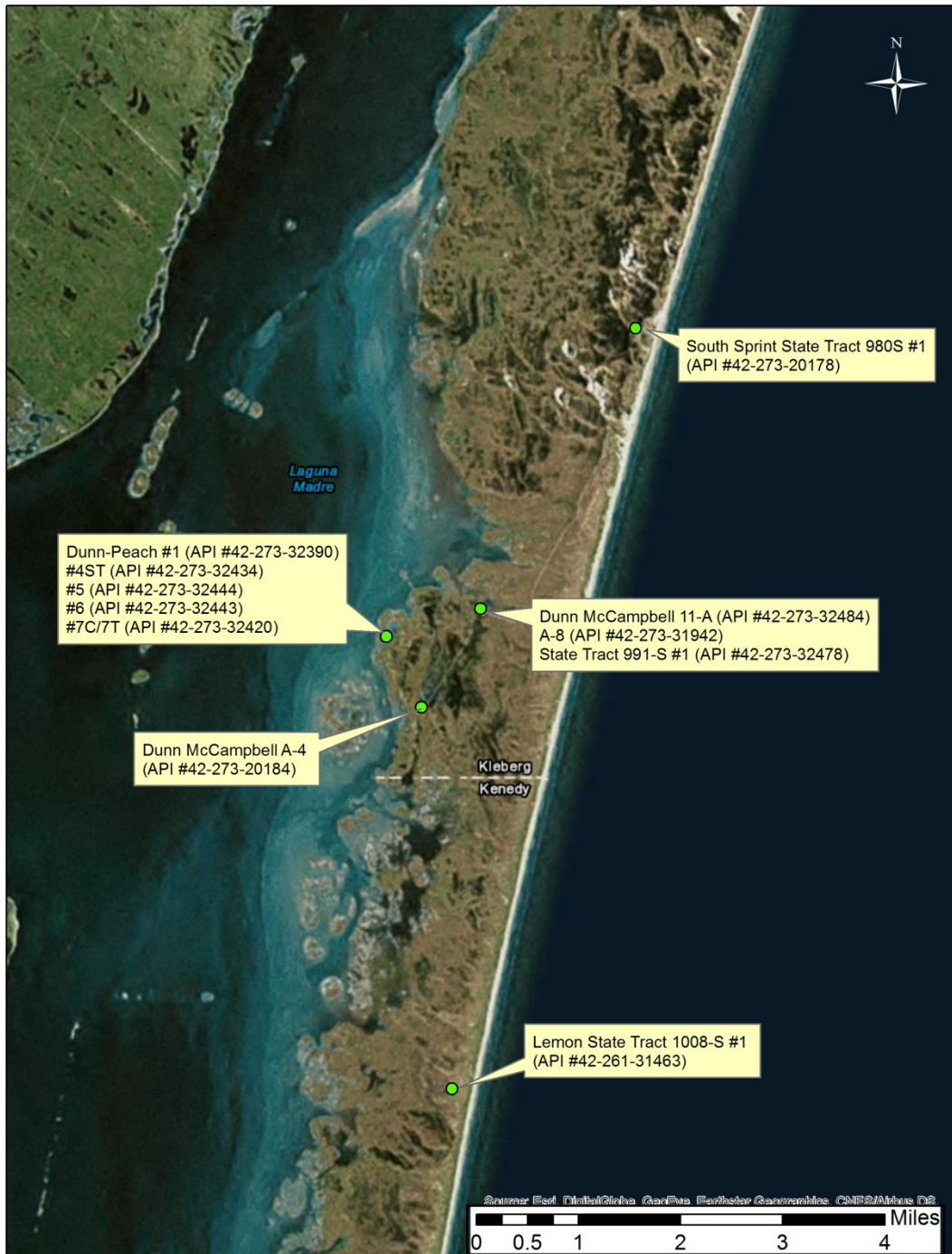


Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Plugging 11 Abandoned Gas Wells at Padre Island National Seashore

PEPC Project Number: 58738

Project Location: Kleberg and Kenedy Counties, Texas



Project Description: Eleven (11) abandoned wells located within Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS or “the park”) are proposed to be plugged, at an estimated cost of \$1.32M. Unplugged abandoned wells pose risks to human safety, environmental risks to surface and subsurface resources through release of contaminants, and may perpetuate habitat loss. These risk increase with time due to continued deterioration, as does the cost to address them. The National Park Service (NPS) will work with the State of Texas to plug the 11 abandoned wells in order to negate these risks. The park will utilize \$200,000 made available through a bond from the parties responsible for well abandonment.

PAIS is one of twelve National Park Service (NPS) units that have nonfederal mineral rights. Petroleum development in national parks most often occurs where entities other than the federal government own the rights to the oil and gas. Individuals, corporations, or the state own the “nonfederal” rights at PAIS. The NPS must recognize nonfederal mineral rights in park units. It must also fulfill Congress’ mandate to leave park resources and values unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. The NPS promulgated oil and gas regulations at 36 C.F.R. Part 9, Subpart B (“9B regulations”) in December 1978. The 9B regulations govern oil and gas activities that are associated with the exploration and development of oil and gas rights located within park boundaries where access is on, across, or through federally owned or controlled lands or waters. The 9B regulations are a park superintendent’s primary tool in protecting park resources from adverse impacts associated with the exercise of nonfederal oil and gas rights. To assess and manage these potential impacts, the 9B regulations require that an operator submit a plan of operations to the NPS describing all of the activities that an operator intends to undertake in order to develop their oil and gas interest. An operator must also submit a suitable performance bond (the regulations limit the bond amount for an operator conducting multiple operations within a given unit to \$200,000). The NPS reviews the operator’s plan to make sure that the information is complete and, in turn, to ensure that park resources will be protected. Once the NPS has completed its review and environmental compliance responsibilities, it may approve the operator’s plan of operations. The approved plan allows the operator to conduct operations in a unit of the National Park System. Sprint Energy conducted operations at the 11 wells under five approved plans of operations, and under a \$200,000 blanket performance bond. Sprint Energy abandoned operations within PAIS on March 31, 2013.

Below is a table listing the wells to be plugged. Wells have been prioritized first by age, with older wells having a higher priority due to concern of wellbore integrity. The one water-based well is a higher priority than land-based wells due to direct resource contamination. There is 1 water well that presents high risk to ground water. There are 10 gas wells under high pressure. The corrosive environment of the wellbores has led to loss of wellbore integrity. Over time, risks and costs will increase due to deterioration of wells, and access through cuts along the primary dunes will be lost. Land-based wells are located behind the primary dunes on the Gulf side of the island, where the majority of park visitors recreate on the beach, or are located along the Laguna Madre side of the island, bordered by expansive wind tidal flats and seagrass beds.

(wells are color coded to identify common wellpad locations)

Well	API #	Completion Date (date well was drilled)	Abandonment Date	Estimated Plugging Cost
Well on the South Sprint Pad – 1) State Tract 980S-#1	42-273-20178	9/23/1968	3/31/2013	\$266,670
Well on the A4 Pad – 2) Dunn-McCampbell A4 Gas Well	42-273-20184	11/13/1968	3/31/2013	\$90,770
Wells on the A3/A8 Pad – 3) Dunn-McCampbell #A8 Water Well	42-273-31942	5/15/1985	3/31/2013	\$103,270
4) State Tract 991-S #1 Gas Well	42-273-32478	4/4/2008	3/31/2013	\$103,270
5) Dunn-McCampbell 11A Gas Well	42-273-32484	5/20/2008	3/31/2013	\$103,270
Wells on the shared Peach pad – 6) Peach #1 Gas Well	42-273-32390	8/25/2004	3/31/2013	\$90,770
7) Peach #4ST Gas Well	42-273-32434	3/2006	3/31/2013	\$90,770
8) Peach #5 Gas Well	42-273-32444	3/2006	3/31/2013	\$90,770
9) Peach #6 Gas Well	42-273-32443	3/2006	3/31/2013	\$90,770

Well	API #	Completion Date (date well was drilled)	Abandonment Date	Estimated Plugging Cost
10) Peach #7C/7T Gas Well	42-273-32420	2/11/2008	3/31/2013	\$90,770
Well on the Lemon Pad- 11) State Tract 1008S-#1	42-261-31463	2/23/2008	3/31/2013	\$196,467

Plugging operations consist of removing the tubing, packer, and other completion equipment; pumping cement across producing zones; and placing cement plugs at various depths to protect freshwater zones. Finally, a cement plug is set at the surface to cap the well, and wellhead equipment is cut off. A permanent abandonment marker is placed to identify the well's location when appropriate. In plugging the wells, the NPS follows the Railroad Commission of Texas, Oil and Gas Division's plugging standards (Texas Administrative Code, Title 16, Part 1, Chapter 3, Rule 3.14, Plugging; using the Railroad Commission of Texas' "Well Plugging Primer, January 2000," that describes the process (<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/media/6358/plugprimer1.pdf>). Also, the NPS has adopted the minimum standards of the Department of the Interior's Onshore Oil and Gas Order Number 2, Section III.G., Drilling Abandonment for plugging wells in parks. The Onshore Order provides for a deeper surface plug; however, on a case by case basis it may be determined that the deeper surface plug is not necessary.

While proper plugging of wells would occur on the existing wellpads; they represent significant sources of petroleum pollution that can impact groundwater, springs and seeps, and surface water. Elimination of the potential for contamination from these abandoned wells will result in protection of water quality in the adjacent waterways, improved habitat for dependent wildlife including endangered and migratory species, and improved visitor safety.

Plugging Procedures – excerpted from NPS-approved Plans of Operation

Dunn-Peach #1 (API #42-273-32390)



1. Types of plugs and setting depth.
 - a. Plug #1: Cement plug from 1650' to 1800'. This would cover the Base of the Goliad water sand and the surface casing shoe. The integrity of this plug will be tested by either tagging with the working pipe string or pressuring to a minimum surface pressure of 1000 psi. A successful test will be recorded on a chart (or equivalent) and have no more than a 10% drop in pressure during a 15 minute interval.
 - b. Plug #2: Cement Plug from 1350' to 1450'. This would cover the top of the Goliad water sand.
 - c. Plug #3: Cement plug from 150' to surface. This would cover the base of usable quality water and surface plug.
2. Type and amount of cement required.
 - a. Plug # I: 100 sacks of Premium cement with silica flour, weighting agent and retarder.
 - b. Plug #2: 50 sacks Premium cement with accelerator.
 - c. Plug #3: 75 sacks Premium cement with accelerator.

3. Type of abandoned hole marker.
 - a. As specified by Park Superintendent

Dunn-Peach #4ST (API #42-273-32434), #5 (API #42-273-32444), #6 (API #42-273-32443) and #7C/7T (API #42-273-32420)



1. Types of plugs and setting depth.
 - a. Plug # 1: Cement retainer set at $\pm 9500'$ md with 200' cement squeezed below the retainer and capped with 100' of cement on top of the retainer. This plug will seal of the 6-3/4" open hole interval.
 - b. Plug #2: Cement plug from 2130' to 2330'. This plug will cover the surface casing shoe and top of intermediate casing stub after pulling $\pm 2230'$ of intermediate casing.
 - c. Plug #3: Cement plug from 1650' to 1750'. This will cover 50' below to 50' above the base of the GOLIAD water sand.
 - d. Plug #4: Cement plug from 250' to 350'. This will cover 50' below to 50' above the base of usable-quality water.
 - e. Plug #5: Cement plug from 3' to 53'. This is the surface plug.
2. Type and amount of cement required.
 - a. Plug #1: 100 sacks of Premium cement with silica flour, weighting agent and retarder.
 - b. Plug #2: 75 sacks Premium cement with accelerator.
 - c. Plug #3: 50 sacks Premium cement with accelerator.
 - d. Plug #4: 50 sacks Premium cement with accelerator.
 - e. Plug #5: 25 sacks Premium neat cement.
3. Type of abandonment hole marker.
 - a. As specified by Park Superintendent.

Lemon State Tract 1008-S #1 (API #42-273-31463)



1. Types of plugs and setting depth.
 - a. Plug #1: Cement plug from 1650' to 1800'. This would cover the Base of the Goliad water sand and the surface casing shoe.
 - b. Plug #2: Cement Plug from 1350' to 1450'. This would cover the top of the Goliad water sand.
 - c. Plug #3: Cement plug from 250' to 350'. This would cover the base of usable quality water.
 - d. Plug #4: Cement plug from 3' to 53'. This is the surface plug.
2. Type of cement required.
 - a. Plug #1: 100 sacks of Premium cement with silica flour, weighting agent and retarder.
 - b. Plug #2: 50 sacks Premium cement with accelerator.
 - c. Plug #3: 50 sacks Premium cement with accelerator.
 - d. Plug #4: 25 sacks Premium cement.
3. Type of abandoned hole marker.
 - a. As specified by Park Superintendent.

South Sprint State Tract 980S #1 (API #42-273-20178)



Plugging procedures were not included in the plan of operations.

Dunn McCampbell A-4 (API #42-273-20184)



Plugging procedures were not included in the plan of operations.

Dunn McCampbell 11-A (API #42-273-32484), A-8 (API #42-273-31942) and State Tract 991-S #1 (API #42-273-32478)



The wells will be plugged according to state regulations, in addition to NPS plugging requirements which are based on Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Order #2 specifications. The NPS plugging requirements are focused on protection of useable quality aquifers and surface resources, and are defined in Chapter 7 of the NPS's Operator's Handbook for Nonfederal Oil and Gas Development in Units of the National Park System. The final plugging procedure for each well will be submitted to the Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore, for review and approval in writing prior to starting plugging operations.

1. Types of plugs and setting depth.

- a. Plug #1: Cement plug from 10,400' to 11,200'. This would cover the 9-5/8" casing shoe and open hole. The integrity of this plug will be tested by either tagging with the working pipe string or pressuring to a minimum surface pressure of 1000 psi. A successful test will be recorded on a chart (or equivalent) and have no more than a 10% drop in pressure during a 15 minute interval.
 - b. Plug #2: Cement Plug from 2350' to 1450'. This would cover the 13-3/8" casing shoe.
 - c. Plug #3: Cement plug from 1350' to 1750' to cover top of Goliad.
 - d. Plug #4: Cement plug from 0' to 100'. This would cover the base of usable quality water and the surface plug.
2. Type and amount of cement required.
 - a. Plug #1: 100 sacks of Premium cement with silica flour, weighting agent and retarder.
 - b. Plug #2: 50 sacks Premium cement with accelerator.
 - c. Plug #2: 50 sacks Premium cement with accelerator.
 3. Type of abandonment hole marker
 - a. As specified by Park Superintendent

Mitigation Measures.

No.	Mitigation Measures
1	Heavy equipment (vehicles larger than a 1-ton pick-up truck or any size pick-up truck with a trailer) will not be operated on the following holidays and associated weekends including but not limited to: Memorial Day, July 4 th , and Labor Day.
2	Plugging will be scheduled outside of the summer season (April 1 through August 31) in order to avoid disturbing sea turtle nests and nesting activity and impacting park visitors.
3	Heavy equipment and convoys will be driven above the Gulf beach "wet line" to prevent excessive erosion, crushing of benthic invertebrates, impacting endangered or threatened species, and prevent disturbances to shorebirds.
4	PAIS vehicle monitors will escort all heavy equipment (vehicles larger than a 1-ton pick-up truck or any size pickup truck with a trailer) traveling to and from the well site that require access on the Gulf beach.
5	If drilling occurs during turtle nesting season and access is required on the Gulf beach, a PAIS monitor will patrol the beach at the beginning of each day and prior to any convoy of trucks driving to or from the drilling location in order to identify any possible nesting that may have occurred at night or in the early morning hours.
6	If plugging occurs during turtle nesting season and access is required on the Gulf beach, an additional PAIS monitor trained to observe and detect nesting sea turtles will be utilized in front of and behind each convoy to insure that all trucks in such convoy maintain proper spacing and speed while driving on the beach, and monitor for violations of the mitigation measures or conditions of approval, as well as all sightings of, and incidents involving, sea turtles or their nests, eggs, hatchlings, or tracks. ATV Turtle Monitors will maintain a clean windshield to ensure good visibility of the beach corridor, and will reduce vehicle speed as needed under adverse conditions to be able to monitor the beach corridor for sea turtle tracks and nests. All oil and gas vehicles must follow, and not pass the ATV Turtle Monitors.
7	If plugging occurs during turtle nesting season and access is required on the Gulf beach, one or more additional maintainers or similar equipment will be available to immediately repair ruts over 12 inches deep and depressions caused by heavy vehicles or vehicle maintenance activities. Each maintainer or similar equipment will have an NPS turtle trained ATV monitor.
8	If plugging occurs during turtle nesting season and access is required on the Gulf beach, where feasible, excess materials will be stored on the well pad(s) in order to delay the traffic associated with hauling such materials.
9	PAIS will educate contractors regarding the need for, and ways and means of, minimizing disturbances to the land, natural and cultural resources, wildlife, and visitors at Padre Island National Seashore. PAIS will print a list of conduct and operating procedures while working within the park, to be reviewed by contractors before they begin work inside the park.
10	All contractors will participate in sea turtle awareness training to be provided by PAIS which will include track identification, notification protocols, and how to mark tracks or nest area if contractors are unable to stay on site until NPS personnel arrive.
11	If the Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore, temporarily closes a segment of the Gulf of Mexico beach in order to respond to an emergency, such as to protect a sea turtle nest until eggs can be excavated by park staff, vehicle traffic in the vicinity closed by the park would stop. Temporary closure of a segment of the

No.	Mitigation Measures
	Gulf of Mexico beach of up to 12 hours may be required during nesting, documentation of nests, or excavation of nests.
12	If an unknown cultural resource is discovered during well pluggings, work will immediately cease in the immediate area until the park determines the significance of the discovery and provides guidance on how to proceed.
13	Wells will be plugged in compliance with the NPS Well Plugging Guide for Nonfederal Oil and Gas Wells in the State of Texas and Railroad Commission of Texas requirements. The NPS Well Plugging Guide addresses how the NPS follows the BLM's Onshore Order No. 2, Section III(G), regarding well plugging. The NPS has adopted the minimum standards of the <i>Department of the Interior's Onshore Oil and Gas Order Number 2, Section III.G., Drilling Abandonment</i> for plugging wells in parks.
14	All ATV operators will be required to wear personal safety equipment identical to that which is required of all NPS staff. This includes helmet, gloves, orange safety vest, closed-toe shoes that cover the ankle, eye protection, long sleeve shirt, and long pants. Non-NPS staff will provide the park with proof that these individuals have completed a current ATV safety Rider Course prior to operating an ATV in the park.
15	In preparation for a hurricane event, all surface and sub-surface equipment in accordance within the Padre Island National Seashore Hurricane Preparedness Plan.
16	<u>Fire suppression equipment will be maintained in serviceable condition at all times.</u>
17	Access roads from the Gulf beach through the primary dunes may need to be re-opened to provide access to the wells. Vehicles will not be driven off the designated access routes and into undisturbed habitats. The use of bull rock will not be allowed on roads within Padre Island National Seashore.
18	Unused equipment or debris will not be stored at well sites. Any unused or surplus equipment will be removed from the park immediately. Debris such as cardboard boxes, garbage, buckets, etc. must not be stored at the well sites and must be brought in on an as needed basis.
19	<p>Heavy equipment is limited to 20 vehicles per each approved plan of operations each day, a speed limit of 15 mph or less, no traveling at night, and shall be scheduled in a manner that facilitates caravanning and minimizes truck trips. The contract crew will utilize an operator-provided shuttle service to transport crews to and from the site to decrease vehicular traffic on the beach.</p> <p>Night time driving hours for heavy equipment shall be based on the U.S. Naval Observatory sunrise/sunset table (enclosed). This table is available online at http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.php and then completing FORM A. Be sure to add one hour to all times in the table when Daylight Savings Time is being observed (second Sunday in March through first Sunday in November). All heavy equipment travel on the beach must be completed between the rise and set hours listed on the table. If this is not possible (i.e. a vehicle can make it to a site but not back to pavement prior to the official sunset time), then the vehicle(s) and equipment will remain at a staging area outside the park, or on a pad location within the park, until daylight travel hours begin. The night time driving ban will be strictly enforced by park law enforcement personnel due to increasing concerns over visitor and employee safety and for the protection of wildlife such as nesting shorebirds, sea turtles, and other resources.</p>
20	The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted within Padre Island National Seashore.
21	All equipment will be washed off and cleaned of mud/soils/plant debris before entering the park to reduce potential introduction of non-native seed/pests into the park.

Determination of No Measurable Impacts: An NPS interdisciplinary team consisting of natural and cultural resource specialists determined that the proposed abandoned well plugging project would result in no measurable impacts, meaning there would be minor effects or less. Because there would be no measurable effects, the project qualifies under a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). An Environmental Screening Form is attached.

Interdisciplinary Team:

- Travis Clapp, Project Coordinator, Padre Island National Seashore
- James Lindsay, Chief of Resource Management, Padre Island National Seashore
- Linda Dansby, Energy and Minerals Coordinator, Intermountain Region, Santa Fe, NM

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

E.4 Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent / Date:

Mark E. Spier 5/18/15

NPS Contact Person: Travis Clapp
Title: Cartographic Technician
Contact information: 361-949-8173
ext.237 Travis_Clapp@nps.gov



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF) DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 05/17/2015

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Padre Island National Seashore
 Project Title: Plugging 11 Abandoned Wells at Padre Island National Seashore
 PEPC Project Number: 58738
 PMIS Number:
 Project Type: Restoration (REST)
 Project Location:
 County, State: Kleberg, Texas
 County, State: Kenedy, Texas
 Project Leader: Travis Clapp
 Administrative Record Location: Park Headquarters
 Administrative Record Contact: Travis Clapp
 Notes:

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is tiered to the analysis performed under the original plans of operation and environmental assessments. All effects have been analyzed and are the same as the original analysis.

Plugging and reclamation activities would result in a localized, short-term, minor, adverse impacts.

The wells will be plugged in accordance with Railroad Commission of Texas plugging standards and Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 2(III)(G). The final plugging procedure will be submitted to the Park Superintendent prior to beginning plugging operations.

Target compliance completion date: 5/18/2015 upon Superintendent signing CE Form

Projected advertisement/Day labor start:

Construction start date:

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? No

C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources –			Minor		

soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.					
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			
4. Soundscapes			Minor		
5. Water quality or quantity			Minor		
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
8. Floodplains or wetlands			Minor		
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat		Negligible			
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)		Negligible			
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		Negligible			
18. Archeological resources	No				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				

20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		N		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime		N		

farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?				
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		N		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		N		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		N		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		N		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		N		
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		N		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		N		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		N		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		N		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that		N		

may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?				
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For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

E. OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
- 1.A. Did personnel conduct a site visit? No
- 2. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? Yes
- 2.A. If so, plan name: Oil and Gas Management Plan / EIS 2001
Plan Project ID:
- 2.B. Is the project still consistent with the approved plan? Yes
- 2.C. Is the environmental document accurate and up-to-date? Yes
FONSI: No ROD: Yes Date approved: 2001
- 3. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? No
- 4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes
- 5. Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project) No

F. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DETERMINING APPROPRIATE NEPA PATHWAY

First, always check DO-12, section 3.2, "Process to Follow" in determining whether the action is categorically excluded from additional NEPA analyses. Other sections within DO-12, including sections 2.9 and 2.10; 3.5; 4.5(G)(4) and (G)(5), and 5.4(F), should also be consulted in determining the appropriate NEPA pathway. Complete the following tasks: conduct a site visit or ensure that staff is familiar with the site's specifics; consult with affected agencies, and/or tribes; and interested public and complete this environmental screening form.

If your action is described in DO-12 section 3.3, "CEs for Which No Formal Documentation is Necessary," follow the instructions indicated in that section.

If your action is not described in DO-12, section 3.3, and IS described is section 3.4, AND you checked YES or identified "data needed to determine" impacts in any block in section D (Mandatory Criteria), this is an indication that there is potential for significant impacts to the human environment, therefore, you must prepare an EA or EIS or supply missing information to determine context, duration, and intensity of impacts.

If your action is described in section 3.4 and NO is checked for all boxes in section D (Mandatory Criteria), AND there are either no effects or all of the potential effects identified in section C (Resource Effects to Consider) are no more than minor intensity, usually there is no potential for significant impacts and an EA or EIS is not required. If, however, during internal scoping and further investigation, resource effects still remain unknown, or are at the minor to moderate level of intensity, and the potential for significant impacts may be likely, an EA or EIS is required.

In all cases, data collected to determine the appropriate NEPA pathway must be included in the administrative record.

G. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

All interdisciplinary team members sign as directed or deemed necessary by the Superintendent. By signing this form, you affirm the following: you have either completed a site visit or are familiar with the specifics of the site; you have consulted with affected agencies and tribes; and you, to the best of your knowledge, have answered the questions posed in the checklist correctly.

H. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Field of Expertise

Project Leader

Travis Clapp

Field of Expertise

Regional Environmental Reviewer

Technical Specialist

Linda Dansby

NEPA Specialist

James Lindsay

NHPA Specialist

James Lindsay

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialist:

NEPA

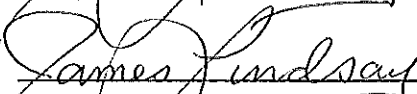
James Lindsay



Date: 5/18/15

NHPA

James Lindsay



Date: 5/18/15

Approved:

Superintendent:


Mark Spier

Date: 5/18/15



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Padre Island National Seashore

2. Project Description:

Project Name: Plugging 11 Abandoned Wells at Padre Island National Seashore

Prepared by: Travis Clapp **Date Prepared:** **Telephone:** 3619498173

PEPC Project Number: 58738

Locations:

County, State: Kleberg, TX

County, State: Kenedy, TX

Describe project:

This project is tiered to the analysis performed under the original plans of operation and environmental assessments. All effects have been analyzed and are the same as the original analysis.

Plugging and reclamation activities would result in a localized, short-term, minor, adverse impacts.

The wells will be plugged in accordance with Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Order No.2. The final plugging procedure will be submitted to the Park Superintendent prior to beginning plugging operations.

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?

No

Yes

Source or reference:

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

Replace historic features/elements in kind

Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

setting or cultural landscape

Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

- Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources**
- Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources**
- Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)**
- Other (please specify): _____**

6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

No Reviews From: Curator, Archeologist, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist, Historical Landscape Architect

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

- No Potential to Cause Effects**
- No Historic Properties Affected**
- No Adverse Effect**
- Adverse Effect**

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

N/A

4. Stipulations and Conditions:

N/A

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:

Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:
(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

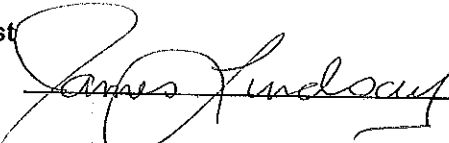
No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Compliance Specialist:

NHPA Specialist

James Lindsay



Date:

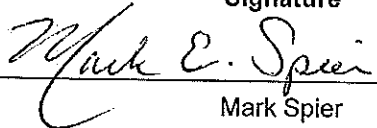
5/18/15

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Signature

Superintendent:


Mark Spier

Date:

5/18/15