



File Code: 1570
Date: November 16, 2020

Dear Objector:

This letter is in response to objections filed on the Northern Great Plains Supplemental EIS for Oil and Gas Leasing (SEIS) and Draft Record of Decision released by Jeff Tomac, Acting Grasslands Supervisor of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. I have read your objections and reviewed the project record. My review of your objection was conducted in accordance with the administrative review procedures found at 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS

The regulations at 36 CFR 218.8 provide for a pre-decisional administrative review process in which the objector provides sufficient narrative description of the project, specific issues related to the project, and suggested remedies that would resolve the objections. The regulations also allow for parties to meet in order to resolve issues.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS

As specified at 36 CFR 218.11(b), I must provide a written response to your objections; however, this response need not be point by point. The review of your objection issues is included as an attachment to this letter and will be posted on the project website.

I met with objectors on Friday, November 13 to discuss objections and potential resolutions. As a result of internal review of objections received and, discussion during the objection resolution meeting, I am instructing the responsible official to do the following before signing the decision.

1. Remove language that states there will be 100 feet or less between the existing roads and the well pad. Clarify that well pad construction will be directly adjacent to the existing road right-of-way and the long axis of the well pad shall be parallel to the existing road right-of-way.
2. Review and revise the FSEIS and ROD to make it clear Forest Service authority is to authorize the BLM to offer oil and gas leases on the Little Missouri National Grassland of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.
3. Correct Figures 28 and 29 in the Final SEIS to clearly show that areas designated 'Not Administratively Available for Leasing' are not modified by the new Controlled Surface Use stipulation.



CONCLUSION

My review finds the project is in compliance with all applicable laws and the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan (2001). The Grasslands Supervisor may sign the Record of Decision for this project when the instructions above have been completed. My review constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture; no further review from any other Forest Service or Department of Agriculture official of my written response to your objection is available [36 CFR 218.11(b)(2)].

Sincerely,

KEITH LANNOM
Deputy Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc: Ben South, Macario Herrera, Shannon Downey, Kate Kenninger, Karen Dunlap, Olga Troxel