

State of California  
Natural Resources Agency / Department of Conservation  
GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

**Notice of Intent  
to use a Finding of No Significant Impact  
in lieu of a Negative Declaration**

California Environmental Quality Act

**Date** August 11, 2021

**To:** Office of Planning & Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From: Lead Agency**  
Department of Conservation  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources  
801 K Street, MS 18-05  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Contact:** Larry Kleinecke, (916) 445-9686

**Project Title:** OG Seneca 14 Wells 05142021  
**Project Applicant:** Seneca Resources Corporation  
**Project Location:** Midway-Sunset Oilfield, Kern County  
County: Kern  
Section: 7  
Township: 11N  
Range: 23W

Baseline: SBBM

The U.S. Department of the Interior/Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared an Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the above-named project, which identifies and evaluates the potential for significant environmental impacts from the proposed project. The BLM completed its review of the FONSI and signed a Record of Decision on February 1, 2018 approving the proposed project.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (PRC §21000, *et seq.*) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000, *et seq.*), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed project, while the BLM is the NEPA lead agency. The Division has reviewed BLM's approved FONSI (DOI-BLM-CA-CO60-2017-0113-EA) and finds that it meets the requirements of CEQA. BLM found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment; therefore, the Division intends to use the FONSI rather than preparing a Negative Declaration for this project.

**Project Description:** The Division received 14 Notices of Intention to Drill New (NOIs) from the Applicant to conduct well operations on mineral and surface estates administered by the BLM Bakersfield Field Office within the Midway-Sunset Oilfield in Kern County. The wells are within Federal mineral lease CALA033358, a developed active lease with ample existing oilfield infrastructure including access roads, powerlines, pipelines, well pads and oil wells, pumping units, heater treaters, and stock tanks. The proposed well names are H-122, H-922, H-127, H-919, H-920, H-921, SI-H118, TO-H120, Ir-102, IR-107, IR-106, SI-IR105, SI-IR101, and TO-OI116.

The proposed project site is not present on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code including, but not limited to lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property and hazardous waste disposal sites, and the information in the *Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement* required under subdivision (f) of that section.

Details on well locations can be found on the Division's website at:  
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Wellfinder.aspx>

**Public Review Period:** BLM held a 30-day public review period for the proposed project, which began on August 8, 2017 and ended on September 8, 2017. BLM posts Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) in the front lobby of their Bakersfield Field Office located at 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA. Additionally, BLM lists the environmental documents prepared for proposed projects on the California BLM NEPA webpage (see link below) to notify the public of the proposed projects and to invite any comments from those interested.

**Available Documents:** The APDs, approved FONSI, DR, and any supporting documents are available for review on BLM's website at: [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do)