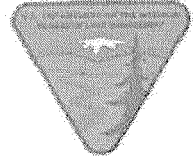




United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Bakersfield Field Office  
3801 Pegasus Drive  
Bakersfield, California 93308-6837  
www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield



3150 (P)  
CA-160.85

MAR 11 2008

Vintage Production California LLC  
Attn: Russell Ledbetter  
9600 Ming Ave., Suite 300  
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Dear Mr. Ledbetter:

We are in receipt of your 3150-4 permit dated March 11, 2008. Your permit request seeks access to your private subsurface property (described as T. 32S., R. 21E., MDM; Sections 10, 15, 16, 20, 21, 29, 30 and 31) in San Luis Obispo County for seismic operations consisting of a 2-D geophysical survey.

Your subsurface private property lies beneath surface public lands administered by BLM within the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and we understand that you are seeking access across/over the public lands within the Monument. As you are aware, the proclamation creating the Monument in 2001 acknowledged that valid existing rights, including reasonable access to subsurface private property, was allowed. Accordingly, we will begin processing your permit request as required under 43 CFR 3151. Per BLM policy and requirements of applicable Federal laws, we anticipate the following steps will be required before we can issue a decision on your permit request:

- This project will require analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Due to the workload within the Bakersfield Field Office, we advise Vintage to coordinate with BLM to set up a contribution fund. This will allow BLM to hire a third party contractor to prepare the NEPA document. The time frame for this is typically 4-6 months.
- The Endangered Species Act will require BLM to consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) due to the presence of a number of different threatened and endangered species. Vintage's biological consultant will be responsible for sending us a biological assessment for this project. Your consultant should send this to BLM wildlife biologist, Larry Saslaw. Once BLM has reviewed and approved the document, we will send it to FWS to initiate the consultation process to obtain a Biological Opinion (BO) from FWS. It is FWS policy to process a BO within 180 days after receipt of the application.

- This project will also require consultation with the State Historic and Preservation Office along with a number of Native American groups that have interest in the area. This process is handled by archeologists on the Bakersfield BLM Resources staff and usually takes 30- 60 days, depending on the number of comments we receive from Native American groups.

Considering all of these steps, our best-case estimate to process your application and issue a decision on the permit is the end of calendar year 2008, with work starting in the spring or summer of 2009 due to soil restrictions.

Please contact Nora DeDios on the Bakersfield BLM Minerals staff at (661) 391-6129 to discuss how you wish to proceed. We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Timothy E. Smith  
Field Office Manager