



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Allegheny National Forest  
Marienville Ranger District

HC 2, Box 130  
Marienville, PA 16239  
(814) 927-6628  
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File Code: 2830

Date:

**DRAFT**

Arthur J. Stewart  
Duhring Resources Company  
203 Center Street  
P.O. Box 726  
Sheffield, PA 16347

To Rob 11/2/07 @  
845am LEM

**Notice to Proceed  
Duhring Resource Company  
OGM Cases 595**

Dear Arthur:

We have completed our project analysis for oil, gas and minerals (OGM) Case 595:

- Case 595 is for your proposed drilling of 10 oil and gas wells, numbered 3672-8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 23, 25, a tank battery, and the development of existing wells 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 1253 and 1247 in Warrant 3672, Jenks Township, Forest County, PA;

This is your Notice to Proceed for the referenced case. We have received your signed Timber Sale Settlement Contract for Case 595 and proof of payment. An executed copy of the Timber Sale Settlement Contract has been mailed to you for your records.

Two signed originals for each Commercial Road Use Permit are enclosed for the use of stone from the stone pit located on FR 403\*\*\*\*\*. Please sign each copy where indicated, keep one for your records, and return the other to Hunter McClelland at the address on the letterhead. If you have any questions about these permits, please contact Hunter at the Marienville Ranger District, 814-927-5732.

The Operating Plan for this case is enclosed. Reference this plan for the conditions under which you may operate on the surface to access your sub-surface ownership. Make certain that your field personnel and your timber harvest and road construction contractors have reviewed this plan.

If an alternative method of drilling is requested from the PA-DEP for dusting of drill cuttings, it is recommended that an unlined pit be utilized to capture all drill cuttings or a deflector shield used to pile the cuttings in one location. If a pit is used, it can be dewatered, lined, and utilized for the containment of stimulation material, in accordance with provisions of Title 25, Chapter 78 of the PA Code.

\*\*\*\*You have been authorized to use the Forest Service stone pit off of Forest Road 403 as your sources for road building for Case 595. You may only use this material on Forest Service owned property. You are also authorized to use a ??? acre expansion within the FR 403 pit. This expansion of the FR 403 pit has been analyzed and approved in a previous Forest Service NEPA



decision document (?????????). Pit Development plans for this pit has been previously provided to you.

Please note that there may be heritage resources in the area of your operations. Heritage resources on Federal land are subject to the prohibitions of the Antiquities Act of 1906, and compliance by the mineral owner is mandatory. For additional information, please see the attached Section G.

All operations within your lease on Forest Service surface are subject to Allegheny National Forest restrictions on ATV use, and require ATV permits. If you intend to use ATVs at any time during the life of your lease, you must comply with the attached Section J. This includes providing the Forest Service with the names of individuals you wish to be authorized to operate ATVs. Each permit is free of charge, must be displayed on the left rear bumper of the ATV, and restricts the use of the ATVs to operations and maintenance activities on the lease. Please coordinate with Mike Lewis to obtain the necessary ATV permits for your lease.

There are six threatened or endangered species known to occur on or near the Allegheny National Forest. These include the small whorled pogonia, northeastern bulrush, bald eagle, Indiana bat, and the clubshell and northern riffleshell mussels. Outstanding and reserved mineral rights owners have certain responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act to protect threatened or endangered species and their habitats. To determine what your responsibilities are, you should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service district office in State College, PA.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this Notice to Proceed or the attached Operating Plan, please contact Lauren Miles, at (814) 927-5737.

Sincerely,

ROBERT T. FALLON  
District Ranger

**OPERATING PLAN**  
**OGM Cases 595**

**A. Wildlife**

1. Retain snags with bark or den trees adjacent to the flagged well sites and road right-of-way. Bark provides hibernation habitat for a wide variety of bats. If the snags pose a safety hazard, then it is recommended that they be removed.
2. All work should stop immediately if any federally proposed or listed species are found or observed on the project site during implementation. The operator will contact the District so that a wildlife biologist can conduct an assessment or recommend mitigation measures. In addition, the operator should contact the District if any stick nests are found near or adjacent to any work location prior to development.
3. Complete all proposed work in a timely fashion to reduce disturbance of and displacement to fish and wildlife species.
4. Follow all terms and conditions in regulatory permits and other official project authorizations to eliminate or reduce the adverse impacts to endangered, threatened, or sensitive species or their habitats.

To Rob 11/2/07

**B. Soil and Water**

1. The operator will follow the standards and guidelines of their submitted Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan and Spill Prevention Plan. Disturbed areas must be stabilized within 30 days following construction and successfully revegetated within 60 days following construction or within 60 days of the beginning of the first growing season following construction that occurs in late fall or winter. Revegetation is achieved when there is 70 percent coverage of perennial vegetation as measured by transect.
2. It is the operator's responsibility to place culverts where they are needed in access roads to drain road surface runoff, and where seeps, springs, streams and other drainages will intersect the proposed roads. Cross culverts to drain ditch water should be at least 18 inch diameter corrugated metal pipes (CMPs) or 15 inch diameter casings and installed diagonally with outlet downhill and a 6 inch drop per 10 feet of running width. The following table outlines recommended spacing of cross culverts to drain ditch water based on percentage slope:

Slope	Spacing of Culverts
2 to 5 percent	300 to 500 feet
6 to 10 percent	200 to 300 feet
11 to 15 percent	100 to 200 feet

Where streams, springs, seeps, and other drainages intersect the road, the operator should install properly sized culverts or properly select, size, and construct other drainage structures, in accordance with the PA-DEP recommended oil and gas management practices.

3. Do not sidecast excavated road materials and avoid accumulating or spreading these materials in upland draws, depressions, streams, and/or spring seeps.
4. Produced fluids must be handled and disposed of according to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Law in accordance with the Clean Streams Act.
5. Road ditch water and runoff from well locations shall not be discharged directly into watercourses. This water will be either discharged onto undisturbed ground or passed through a sedimentation basin.
6. Construction will not take place during the spring thaw or during times of prolonged rainfall when saturated conditions are existent.
7. Temporary and permanent seed mixtures should be in accordance with the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Operators Manual (Chapter 4). However, to avoid introducing non-native invasive plant species to the Allegheny National Forest, operators should use the following seed mixtures:
  - a) Temporary cover or nurse crops: all mixtures and cover rates can be used but, for the late spring and summer seeding mixtures, do not use Japanese or foxtail millet or sudangrass.
  - b) Permanent seed mixtures:
    - (i) Cool season grasses: Preferred mixture is Number 3 using smooth brome grass and birdsfoot trefoil. Mixture 1 using fine fescue, perennial ryegrass and birdsfoot trefoil may be used if Number 3 is not available, but it is our preference that fescue mixes not be used.
    - (ii) Warm season grasses: Preferred mixtures are Number 5 and 6.
  - c) Mulch: straw is preferred in all cases. If hay is used, the source location and supplier shall be provided and every attempt should be made to obtain hay free of non-native invasive species.

#### C. Transportation Systems and Equipment

1. Road locations will be approved by the District prior to marking timber for removal. Use existing roadways, skid trails, or travel paths for access to proposed well sites whenever possible.
2. Rock surfacing on roads will be commensurate with use and season of the year. At least 6 inches of stone will be applied to all roads intended for permanent access. Pits developed to obtain pit run road surfacing material on National Forest System land should be reclaimed to

the Forest Service's specifications. If there is insufficient material available in these pits to complete this project, it is recommended that the operator obtain the necessary surfacing material from a commercial source. If the operator proposes to utilize commercially graded surfacing material at a depth less than 6 inches, the operator must obtain written approval from the OGM Administrator to place this material at a specified depth in designated locations. Roads should be constructed and maintained in a manner to prevent rutting and to maintain the road crown.

3. Road grades are recommended to be between 2 and 8 percent, with grades up to 15 percent acceptable for short pitches up to 200 feet when sufficient stabilization is provided.
4. It is strongly recommended that a gate be installed at the entrance of OGM roads to ensure that the FS resources are not damaged by non-OGM development users.
5. Equipment must be stored, serviced, and fueled in upland areas away from transport pathways and all aquatic habitats. No long term equipment storage, such as unused storage tanks, vehicles, machinery, pipeline, or other staging materials, is allowed. Litter or trash shall be promptly removed.

#### D. Timber

1. All merchantable timber will be marked by the Forest Service and sold by contract. Timber will be paid for prior to harvesting.
2. Timber will not be skidded across watercourses, springs or seeps, except at crossings designated by the Forest Service.
3. Slash will be lopped and scattered to lie within 3 feet of the ground. Slash will be kept out of springs, seeps, and streams.

#### E. Public Safety

1. Pipelines and electric lines will be buried a minimum of 36 inches deep, where practical. Utility lines should follow road rights-of-way, wherever possible, to minimize conflict with surface management activities and to protect the utility lines.
2. Automatic jacks will have warning signs. Storage tanks should have warning signs to restrict flames near flammable materials.

#### F. Recreation and Aesthetics

1. The developer is encouraged to use earth tone colors such as *grey-brown* when painting well jacks and tanks. Well pads and storage tank installations should be designed to minimize visual impacts.
2. All disturbed soils and cut or fill slopes will be seeded and mulched as soon as possible.

### G. Heritage Resources

1. Private mineral owners are subject to the prohibitions of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 provides clarification and forbids the removal of archaeological resources from Federal land without a proper permit. Section 6 of ARPA states that "no person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface or attempt to excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on public lands or Indian lands unless such activity is pursuant to a permit issued under section 4 of this Act..."
2. A limited assessment of the potential for cultural resource damage has been completed. Although this work has revealed no known cultural resource sites near the proposed development (could differ by project), care should be taken to ensure that project activities are limited to those areas marked on the ground, i.e. well pads and access roads. Before operations occur beyond the marked project boundaries, you should contact the District Ranger. Your cooperation will help you avoid civil or criminal actions under the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, which protect cultural resources from unauthorized disturbance, removal and transport.

### H. Monitoring

1. Forest Service personnel will inspect this development periodically while clearing, road building, and drilling are occurring.
2. The Forest Service will work closely with PA-DEP personnel to ensure that Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Spill Prevention Plans are implemented.

### I. Permits

1. Commercial road use permits are required for commercial use of any National Forest System road.
2. Permits are required for ATV use on your leases within the Allegheny National Forest (See Section J for details).

### J. ATV use on the lease:

1. Public use of ATVs is prohibited on the Allegheny National Forest, with the exception of designated trails. You or your designated employees will be allowed to use ATVs only as part of the business operations associated with operating your lease. You may operate ATVs on roads and pipelines you have constructed within your lease or on those Forest Service roads within your lease that are designated for ATV use in the Notice to Proceed, and only while the lease is under production or operation. Operating ATVs off of these roads and pipelines within your lease is strictly prohibited. Individuals observed operating ATVs off of these roads and pipelines are subject to citation and fine. Evidence that ATVs are being used on your lease off

of these roads and pipelines will jeopardize your exception to use ATVs on this and other leases.

2. Designated employees are those individuals involved in the day-to-day operation and maintenance activities within your lease. You are required to obtain a Forest Service permit for any ATV used on this or any other lease. This permit will restrict use of this ATV to the specified roads and pipelines within the identifiable lease, and only for operations and maintenance activities. ATVs may be authorized to operate on multiple leases, but this must be specified on the permit. Unless leases are adjacent and connected by a designated road or trail, ATVs must be moved using a trailer from lease to lease. Designated individuals operating ATVs within your lease are required to carry identification, and to stop and present this identification to a Forest Service Officer when requested. Failure to do so will jeopardize your exception to use ATVs on this and other leases.
3. ATVs are to be utilized in a safe manner. Operators will use basic safety equipment and maintain safe speeds.