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September 24, 2013

Mr. Rob Young  
COGCC – OGLA  
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801,  
Denver, Colorado 80203

**RE: *GWOC Postle East Wellpad and Battery near Bald Eagle Nest***

Dear Rob:

This letter is in regards the Postle East wellpad and battery that Great Western Operating Company (GWOC) has proposed to construct and operate. Both surface locations are within 0.5 miles of an active Bald Eagle nest to the north of both sites. The pad areas are not listed on the COGCC Sensitive Wildlife habitat maps, but GWOC voluntarily contacted Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) personnel to consult on the Bald Eagle issue.

GWOC met and consulted with Jeff Behncke, CPW-Regional Wildlife Officer, initially on September 3, 2013 and again on September 19, 2013 with Jeff and Tom Schreiner, NE Energy Liason, and Mike Sherman, Wildlife Biologist of CPW. GWOC has also contracted raptor biologists with Savage & Savage and Otter Tail Environmental to consult on the issue.

As was discussed with the CPW personnel, GWOC had initially planned the Postle East pad to be approximately due east and within 0.25 miles of the subject nest. Since identifying the nest, GWOC revised the wells for this site from nine to four to reduce the size of the wellpad. In addition, GWOC moved the well pad location south to a site abutting the county road and has moved the battery to be adjacent to an existing tank battery also abutting the county road to the south. These voluntary actions by GWOC mitigated; the pad size, the direct pad proximity to the nest, moving the pad outside the 0.25 radius of the nest, and the access route from directly under the nest site by rerouting the access route away from the nest site to directly off the county road into the revised pad locations from the south. Note that the landowner regularly utilizes the road beneath the subject nest for access and farming activities and will continue to do so. The Bald Eagle pair utilizing this nest have apparently not been adversely impacted by the farm operations surrounding the nest, or the county road and the existing oil and gas activity (well and battery), both within 0.5 miles of the nest site, as they have remained in the area utilizing this nest for at least the past five years according to the landowner.

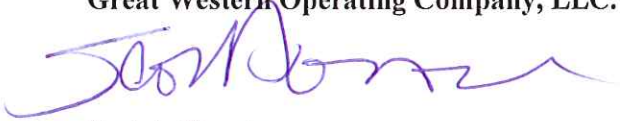
The CPW Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions recommend that within a 0.5 mile radius of an active nest human encroachment be restricted from October 15 through July 31 annually (i.e. open to human encroachment from August 1 to October 15).

After consultation with CPW, in addition to the above GWOC committed mitigation measures, GWOC has also agreed to place either a minimum 8-foot hay bale or other visual deterrent-type wall around the northern edge and northwestern corner of the wellpad during drilling and completion activities. In addition, a minimum 6-foot fence with slats along the northern edge and around the northwestern corner of the well pad and tank battery when the site is in production, to reduce view issues with ground-level activities.

Please contact me at 303-398-0537 or [sdonato@gwogco.com](mailto:sdonato@gwogco.com) if you have any questions or require further information on this issue.

Sincerely,

**Great Western Operating Company, LLC.**



Scot A. Donato  
EH&S/Regulatory Manager

*SAD/bh*

*cc: S. Hartnett; GWOC*