



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Mt. Magazine  
Ranger District

3001 E. Walnut  
P.O. Box 511  
Paris, AR 72855  
Phone 479-963-3076  
FAX 479-963-8055

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**File Code: 1950**  
Date: April 12, 2013

Dear Reader:

Stephens Production Company is proposing to construct a gas well (*USA 1-15H, ARES 54692*) on National Forest land. The proposed activity is located in Section 15 of T6N, R25W of the Mt. Magazine Ranger District. The site is located approximately 3.2 miles west of the Hwy 309 and Green Bench Road intersection in Logan County. See the attached map for the location.

Preparation for this drilling activity would include road work to access the well, construction of a drill pad, construction of a reserve pit and maintenance of the surface features by either mechanical means, herbicide use, or both. If the well is a producer, production facilities would be installed on the drill pad and approximately 3483 feet of gathering line would be installed on Forest Service land, of which approximately 1974 feet would be on lease in section 15. The remaining 1509 feet of gathering line would be covered under a special use permit. Production equipment to be installed on the drill pad would consist of, but not be limited to, a wellhead, a separator unit, a meter shed, a produced tank, and if needed, a compressor and/or dehydrator. Maintenance of the location would be required during the life of the well; mechanical (mowing), herbicide, or both may be used to achieve this. Any portion of the drill pad not used for the production site would be reclaimed for use by the Forest Service. Upon depletion of reserves or abandonment of the well, the production facility would be removed from the site and the site will be rehabilitated.

If drilling results in a dry hole, the well casing would be plugged with cement below the ground surface in a manner approved by the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission and a dry hole marker installed. The cleared area and the reserve pit would then be reclaimed as specified by the Forest Service.

Drilling operations are expected to begin upon approval from the authorizing agencies. The Forest Service is the surface management agency responsible for approval of surface disturbing activities on National Forest Lands. The Bureau of Land Management will approve the drilling plan or "downhole" operations. An environmental analysis will be done that covers both surface and subsurface effects.

Proposal for the well is as follows:

Activity	USA #1-15H
<b><i>Drill Pad and Reserve Pit Construction and maintenance</i></b> <i>(includes clearing limits)</i>	Not to exceed 3.88 acres
<b><i>Gathering Line Construction and maintenance</i></b> <i>(20-foot right-of-way)</i>	3,483 feet (1.60 acres)
<b><i>Road Construction</i></b> <i>(30-foot right-of-way)</i>	647 feet (0.45 acre)
<b><i>Road Maintenance/Improvements</i></b> <i>(Green Bench Road)</i>	cutting and pouring new cement at the creek crossing on the east side of Section 15 T6N, R25W

***Drill Pad and Reserve Pit Construction***

The proposed well pad would be approximately 220' by 320' (1.62 acres) with a pit approximately 100' by 135' (0.31 acres). Total cleared area would not exceed 3.88 acres. Clearing limits around the location would allow for topsoil stockpiles, erosion control measures, and diversion ditches. Diversion ditches and waterbars will extend beyond the clearing limits onto undisturbed forest floor no further than necessary. Existing trees would be marked and sold to Stephens Production Company. They would have the option of removing the trees or disposing of them onsite.

Whether a producing well or a non-producing well, upon completion of the drilling activities, testing of soil and water would be conducted with the U.S. Forest Service present. If levels tested are higher than base levels, mitigation needed to accomplish successful reclamation of the pit would be completed.

Machinery noise that has the potential to disturb wildlife, livestock, and private landowners or neighbors would be controlled to reduce sound levels. Suitable mufflers would be installed on all internal combustion engines and certain compressor components. Engineered sound barriers or sound-insulated buildings may be required.

Permanent or semi-permanent gas well equipment left in place after initial drilling will be painted the current specified color, "shale green," to better blend with the surroundings.

### Gathering Line Construction

Approximately 3,843 feet of gathering line would be constructed. These gathering lines would be installed with machinery such as a track hoe in the 20-foot right-of-way. The 6-inch steel pipeline would be buried to a depth satisfying all state and federal requirements. The size of the pipe would be determined after the well is drilled and the production volumes have been analyzed.

### Temporary Water Line

The source of water required for drilling the proposed well will be obtained from an off-site private source. Water used for the drilling operation would be piped through temporary water lines placed on the south side of Green Bench Road. The pipe will be a 3" plastic water line on top the surface. Daily water usage will be from an 8,400 gallon minimum to a 16,800 gallon maximum. Portions of the temporary waterline that are off lease will be covered under a special use permit.

### Lease Road Construction

The proposed new lease road will be approximately 647' in length on U.S. Forest Service property. The proposed lease road right-of-way is approximately 30' wide, with the road surface being approximately 12' to 16' wide. There will be approximately 15' of clearing required on each side of the centerline of the access road, and 25' when pipeline is adjacent to the road. The newly constructed lease road will have a 4 – 6% crown with 3:1 slopes from the edges of the road on cut sides and 1.5:1 slopes from the edges on fill slopes. Drainage ditches will be installed on the upslope grade of the lease road with culverts as needed. The ditches will be constructed with a 3:1 slope next to the road and 1:1 back slopes.

### Road Maintenance/Improvements

Improvements to Green Bench Road will be done by cutting and pouring new cement at the creek crossing on the east side of Section 15-6N-25W. Safety signs will be required along roads and trails as directed by the Surface Management Agency.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.7, I am requesting comments on this proposed action. Your comments will be used to identify issues about this proposal and to develop alternatives to the proposal for my consideration. The environmental effects will be enclosed in an environmental document.

The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. This project is subject to administrative review under 36 CFR 218 Project-Level Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process, Parts A and B.

Comments must be postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day after publication of a legal notice in the *Times Record* in Fort Smith, AR.

When submitting a comment, please provide the following information: 1) your name and mailing address, 2) title of the proposed action: *Stephens Production Company USA #1-15H* 3) your comments on the proposed action, and 4) your signature or other means of identification verification: for organizations, a signature or other means of identification verification must be provided for the individual authorized to represent your organization.

Please send written comments to me: Deputy District Ranger Rob Kopack, Mt. Magazine Ranger District, Ozark National Forest, P.O. Box 511, Paris, AR 72855. Oral or hand-delivered comments may be made

at the Ranger District office at 3001 E. Walnut within the normal weekday business hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Comments may also be mailed electronically to this office, in a common digital format (without attachments), using the following email address: [comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-mtmagazine@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-mtmagazine@fs.fed.us). In accordance with regulations, all written comments received, including those submitted electronically, will be placed in the project file and will become a matter of public record.

Questions regarding this project's effects on cultural resources and/or compliance of this project with National Historic Preservation Act Section 106, should be directed to Dr. David Jurney, Heritage Program Manager and Tribal Liaison for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests (479-964-7237 or [djurney@fs.fed.us](mailto:djurney@fs.fed.us)).

A comment form is included that can be used for your written comments.

If you have questions on this proposal or the analysis and decision process, please contact Mindi Lawson or me at 479-963-3076.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Kopack".

ROB KOPACK  
Deputy District Ranger

Attachments

**MT. MAGAZINE RANGER DISTRICT  
OZARK-ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS**

***Stephens Production Company (USA #1-15H)***

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # (DAYTIME): \_\_\_\_\_

*COMMENTS:*

(Attach additional sheets if needed)

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



Ozark-St. Francis National Forests  
Mt. Magazine Ranger District

# Stephens Production Company

USA # 1-15H

- Proposed Well Location
- Proposed Pipeline
- Proposed Lease Road
- Roads
- Highway
- Private

This product is intended for informational purposes and may not be prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

For more information contact the Mt Magazine RD:  
3001 E Walnut, Paris AR, 72855 Phone:(479)963-3076

