

Summary: Oil Producer Trespassed on Federal Land in Colorado

Report Date: November 16, 2022

Report Number: 21-0867

We opened an investigation based on a referral from the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO), District of Colorado, that reported that PDC Energy, Inc. (PDC), drilled and then operated a well in Weld County, Colorado, that removed Federal minerals without first obtaining a Federal lease or drilling permit. PDC self-reported its conduct to the USAO.

During our investigation, we confirmed that PDC drilled a well without first obtaining a Federal mineral lease from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). As a result of our investigation, the USAO entered into a settlement agreement with PDC for \$194,000 to resolve the trespass violation and recover lost Federal revenues.

This is an investigative summary of a report we issued to the Directors of the BLM and Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

