

ACEC—8 acres; Rex Millsite Tailings Pile ACEC—6 acres; Rochat Divide ACEC—11,653 acres; Sidney Mine and Millsite ACEC—6 acres; Wallace Landfill ACEC—0.3 acres; We-Like Mine ACEC—0.3 acres; Wolf Lodge Bay ACEC—1,094 acres. Restrictions on use of public lands within these areas would vary, depending on the alternative and the values identified for protection, but would include limitations on mining, off-highway vehicle use, and vegetation treatments.

The preferred alternative also recommends four suitable segments of river for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system: Little North Fork Clearwater River—2.5 miles wild classification and 1.1 miles recreation classification; Lost Lake Creek—3.0 miles wild classification and 0.3 miles scenic classification; Little Lost Lake Creek—3.0 miles wild classification; and Lund Creek—3.9 miles wild classification. A segment of the Kootenai River (14 miles) was found eligible, but under the preferred alternative, suitability determination would be deferred until the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (the primary land owner along this segment) makes a suitability determination on adjacent segments.

Dated: November 16, 2005.

Eric R. Thomson,

Coeur d'Alene Field Office Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-100-06-1310-DB]

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Jonah Infill Drilling Project, Sublette County, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and associated regulations, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that evaluates, analyzes, and discloses to the public direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of a proposal to further develop the Jonah natural gas field through infill drilling in Sublette County, Wyoming.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the FEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies, and to interested parties.

An electronic copy of the FEIS may be viewed or downloaded from the BLM Web site at <http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/nepadocs.htm>. Copies of the FEIS are available for public inspection at the following BLM office locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 432 East Mill Street, Pinedale, Wyoming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mike Stiewig, Project Manager, BLM Pinedale Field Office, 432 East Mill Street, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941. Mr. Stiewig may also be reached at (307) 367-5363.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In response to a proposal submitted by EnCana Oil and Gas (USA), Inc. (EnCana), BP America Production Company (BP), and other companies, referred to collectively as the Companies, the BLM published in the March 13, 2003, **Federal Register** a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published in February 2005. On April 14, 2005, the BLM notified the public of its intent to prepare supplemental air quality information and that comments on the DEIS Air Quality information would continue to be accepted until the supplemental information was completed. On August 9, 2005, the BLM announced the availability of the JIDP DEIS supplemental air quality information and summary and a 60 day review period during which BLM would accept comments.

The Jonah Infill Drilling Project Area (JIDPA) covers approximately 30,500 acres in Townships 28 and 29 North, Ranges 107, 108, and 109 West, 6th Principal Meridian, approximately 32 miles southeast of Pinedale, Sublette County, Wyoming. The FEIS analyzes a proposal by the Companies to infill drill and develop Federal natural gas resources in an area known as the Jonah Field. The Companies' proposal includes drilling 3,100 additional natural gas wells and constructing associated ancillary transportation and transmission facilities within the JIDPA. The proposed life of the project (LOP) is approximately 76 years, with the majority of drilling and development activities to occur within the first 12 years following approval of the BLM

Record of Decision (ROD). The total 30,500 acre project area comprises approximately 28,580 acres of Federal surface and mineral estate administered by the BLM, 1,280 acres of State of Wyoming surface and mineral, and 640 acres of split estate (private surface/Federal mineral) lands. To offset expected impacts from closely spaced infill drilling, EnCana has volunteered varying levels of off-site compensatory mitigation based on the level of new surface disturbance authorized in the ROD for this project.

The FEIS describes in detail and analyzes the impacts of five alternatives, including the No Action Alternative and the Companies' Proposed Action. The following is a summary of the alternatives:

1. *Proposed Action*—Up to 3100 new gas wells would be drilled and developed, with associated ancillary facilities, on up to 16,200 acres of new surface disturbance. Bottom-hole well spacing is expected to range from 16 wells per 640-acre section (40-acre spacing) to 128 wells per section (5-acre well spacing). Additionally, compensatory (off-site) mitigation has been volunteered by EnCana.

2. *No Action Alternative*—The no action alternative means that the project as proposed would not be approved.

3. *Alternative A*—This alternative proposes to maximize economic recovery of gas resources. New surface disturbance would be comparable to the Proposed Action, but many of the existing BLM Conditions of Approval, stipulations and mitigations would be exempted.

4. *Alternative B*—This alternative proposes to minimize surface disturbance by requiring directional drilling from existing well pads. This alternative requires expansion of existing well pads but results in the least amount of new surface disturbance while still providing for a higher level of resource recovery.

5. *Alternative C (Agency Preferred)*—This alternative proposes to achieve high levels of natural gas recovery approaching that of the Proposed Action, while minimizing resource impacts by the use of outcome-based performance objectives, mitigation, and Best Management Practices. This alternative manages surface disturbance on a field-wide level, not to exceed 46 percent at any given time. Once interim reclamation meets BLM standards, credit would be applied to the allowable surface disturbance acreage limits. Maximum cumulative surface disturbance or number of wells would not exceed those of the proposed action.

Features common to all action alternatives: The Companies would agree to some "operator committed" mitigation measures when operating on Federal surface lands.

DATES: The FEIS will be available for review for 30 calendar days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its NOA in the **Federal Register**. A Record of Decision (ROD) will be prepared following the close of the 30 day review period.

How To Submit Comments

Comments may be mailed directly or delivered to the BLM at: Jonah Infill Drilling Project FEIS, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 432 East Mill Street, PO Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

You may mail comments electronically to WYMail_Jonah_Infill@blm.gov. Please put "Attention: Mike Stiewig" in the subject line.

To receive full consideration by the BLM all FEIS comment submittals must include the commenter's name and street address.

Our practice is to make comments, including the names and street addresses of each respondent, available for public review at the BLM office listed above during the business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. Your comments may be published as part of the EIS process. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address, or both, from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments.

Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: December 1, 2005.

Robert A. Bennett,

State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-030-1610-DT]

Notice of Availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, Otero County, NM

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMPA/FEIS) for McGregor Range in Otero County, New Mexico. The planning area encompasses approximately 608,000 surface acres of public land withdrawn by the Department of Army and jointly managed by the Las Cruces District Office and Fort Bliss Texas. It is located in south central Otero County in southern New Mexico. The BLM has and will continue to work closely with all interested parties to identify management decisions that are best suited to the needs of the public. Final decisions will supersede those in the previous RMPA for McGregor Range that was completed in 1990, and will provide direction for management of the resources and public uses of the withdrawn public land.

DATES: The PRMPA/FEIS for McGregor Range will be available for a 30-day protest period in accordance with BLM's land use planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2). Protests must be filed within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice of availability of the FEIS.

ADDRESSES: Written protests must be submitted to: Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Ms. Brenda Hudgens-Williams, Protests Coordinator, WO-210, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035.

Alternatively, and to expedite delivery, you may send your protest using an express delivery service to: Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Ms. Brenda Hudgens-Williams, Protests Coordinator, WO-210, 1620 L Street, NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

E-mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the

protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, BLM will consider the e-mail or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and e-mails to Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Phillips, BLM Las Cruces District Office, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005 or by telephone (505) 525-4377; Fax (505) 525-4412.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This land use plan amendment focuses on the principle of multiple-use management and sustained yield as prescribed by Section 202 of FLPMA. The Proposed RMPA/FEIS considers and analyzes four alternatives. These alternatives have been developed based on extensive public input following scoping (July 2001), review and comment on the Draft RMPA/EIS (January 2005-April 2005), and numerous meetings with local governments, interested groups, local citizens, and the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council. Alternative A is the proposed plan and provides for a balance of resource use and conservation.

The BLM Planning Regulations, 43 CFR 1610.5-2, state that any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which may be adversely affected may protest. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process. Protests must be filed within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice of availability of the FEIS. Specific dates of the protest period will be announced through the local news media and the following BLM Web site: http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/state_info/planning.htm. To be considered timely, your protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. Though not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested. You are also encouraged, but not required, to forward a copy of your protest to the Las Cruces District Manager at 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005. To be considered complete, your protest must contain (at a minimum) the following information:

(1) Name, mailing address, telephone number and the affected interest of the person filing the protest(s).