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Date: March 29, 2006

GREAT FALLS—The Bureau of Land Management is seeking comments on a proposal to drill additional exploration and development wells in the Bowdoin natural gas field.

The Bowdoin field is one of the oldest and largest gas fields in Montana with 1,500 producing wells. Gas has been produced from the field for more than 80 years. Generally, the Bowdoin field straddles the Phillips-Valley County line from the Canadian border south to U.S. Highway 2.

“Four companies are proposing this project that would help maximize recovery of the gas resource in this field,” said Don Judice, BLM’s Great Falls supervisor. “Production from some wells that were drilled in the 1940s would be restored by drilling new replacement wells adjacent to the existing wells. In other instances, areas within the field that were previously passed over would be tapped to increase productivity.”

BLM is planning to prepare an environmental assessment to address the proposal. Written comments and concerns about the proposed activity should be sent by May 1, 2006, to Donato Judice, BLM Field Station Supervisor, 1101 15th St. N., Great Falls, Mont. 59401 or via e-mail to: MT Bowdoin EA@blm.gov.

The companies involved are Fidelity Exploration and Production Co., Noble Energy, Decker Operating Co., and Omimex Canada.

The proposal is generally located on public, fee, and state lands within Townships 30 through 37 North, Ranges 29 through 36 East, in Phillips and Valley Counties.

For more information on this proposal, contact BLM’s Great Falls Field Station at the address above.

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