

Hightower area gas well drilling program begins in the fall of 2008

10/16/08 update

Plains Exploration and Production will begin construction, drilling and completion activities in the Hightower area (T9S, R92W, sections 16, 17, 20 and 21) starting in mid October of 2008. This will be a multi-year project.

- Logging of drilling locations, pipeline and access roads will begin this fall and continue into the early spring of 2009.

- Construction of three drilling locations and their access roads will begin this fall (the 21-2, 21-12 and the 20-11 drilling locations).

The remaining drilling locations, compressor site and pipeline corridors will be built beginning in the early summer of 2009. Drilling will begin in the spring or summer of 2009 and continue through much of 2010.

Drilling is authorized year-round, so Forest Roads 265 and 266 will be plowed to allow access to the drilling locations starting in the fall of 2009. During this time, the forest closure order for Forest Road 265 will remain in effect to the general public from December 1 to May 30. Once the wells are put into production, no plowing will be authorized on NFSRs 265 and 266 except under emergency situations.

Updates will be posted at the display board at the forest boundary and at the district offices in Grand Junction and Collbran. You can reach these offices at 970-242-8211, Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00.

The project facilities are shown on the map and consist of:

32 wells drilled on five, 5.5 acre drilling locations;

3.7 acre tank battery/compressor site;

1.1 miles of new access road construction;

Surfacing and upgrading of approximately 7 miles of NFSRs 265, 266 and 270;

5.5 miles of buried gas pipeline and water line.

If you have questions, please contact Liz Mauch, Minerals Program Administrator on the Grand Valley Ranger District at 970-242-8211.

