

Jonah Infill Drilling Project Final EIS

Questions and Answers

How long is the comment period for the FEIS?

30 days from the EPA's Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register.

Who proposed the Jonah Infill Drilling Project and what is the proposal?

EnCana Oil & Gas (USA), Inc.; BP America Production Company; and other natural gas operators (collectively known as the Operators) propose to expand existing natural gas drilling and development operations in the Jonah Field in south-central Sublette County, Wyoming, by infilling the existing Jonah Field with additional gas wells. The analysis was based on the Operators' proposal to drill up to 3,100 additional gas wells on up to 16,200 acres of additional initial (drilling phase) surface disturbance, at a rate of 250 wells drilled per year.

How much gas will be recovered from the Jonah field as part of this project?

The gas recovered from Jonah will vary depending on the alternative selected. The range is between 3.366 trillion cubic feet (TCF) for the no action alternative to 8.191 TCF for alternative A. Both the proposed action and preferred alternative should result in approximately 7.947 TCF of natural gas.

What will this natural gas mean to the U.S.?

The actual value of gas is a function of supply and demand on the open market so is difficult to predict. However, the estimated increase in quantity of gas recovered is sufficient to provide enough natural gas to supply all of Wyoming's homes for nearly 500 years.

What is the impact of this project on air quality in the Upper Green River Basin?

The latest air quality modeling suggests that without any regulation, visibility could be significantly impacted in both the Bridger Wilderness (a Class I airshed) and local communities (Class II airsheds). However, in cooperation with other regulatory agencies (EPA, WDEQ and USFS), significant air quality mitigation is being implemented to reduce these impacts to below allowable thresholds. It is the goal of all the agencies involved to ultimately reach a point where there will be no air quality impacts of any kind.

Does the BLM regulate air quality?

The BLM does not have regulatory authority over air quality; that lies with the EPA and WDEQ. However, the BLM is required to analyze potential impacts to air quality values and disclose those to the public as part of the NEPA process. In addition, we work closely with the regulatory agencies to ensure new projects' impacts remain within acceptable levels.

What other agencies are involved in permitting oil and gas development?

Multiple agencies are involved with various aspects of oil and gas development. WOGCC permits downhole spacing, APDs, Sundry Notices, and Geophysical projects on state or private minerals, they also co-approve all APDs on federal minerals; WDEQ issues Storm Water Discharge Permits for construction projects larger than 1 acre, well completion flaring, and waste water discharge, they also regulate air quality emissions and water quality standards; WSEO

issues water use/depletion permits for water extracted from streams, lakes, rivers, and irrigation canals for industrial use, they also issue permits for water wells.

Where is the Jonah Infill Drilling Project Area?

The Jonah Infill Drilling Project Area (JIDPA) is part of the Jonah Field located approximately 32 miles southeast of Pinedale, 28 miles northwest of Farson, Wyoming, and between 6 and 14 miles west of State Highway 191, in portions of Townships 28 and 29 North, Ranges 107 through 109 West.

How much acreage does the JIDPA cover?

The JIDPA encompasses approximately 30,500 acres (28,580 acres federal surface/federal mineral, 1,280 acres state surface/state mineral and 640 acres private surface/federal mineral).

When and how did public involvement in the Jonah Infill Project begin?

The BLM performed public scoping prior to development of the Draft EIS. Following publication of the DEIS in February 2005, a 60-day public comment period was conducted with over 1000 comments received. Additionally, Supplemental Air Quality analyses were performed and released to the public in August 2005, also with a 60-day public comment period. The public participated in BLM planning for Jonah through the Pinedale Resource Management Plan and various other planning efforts that authorized mineral leasing and development.

Did BLM consult with any other agencies?

Yes. The State of Wyoming and its affected agencies have cooperating agency status and participate with the BLM on the Interdisciplinary (planning) Team. The BLM has also coordinated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service, and the USDA-Forest Service on relevant parts of the document.

Does the proposed Jonah Infill drilling project comply with existing land use plans?

The proposed project is in conformance with the BLM Pinedale and Green River Resource Area Resource Management Plans, the Sublette County Land Use Plan, and the State of Wyoming Land Use Plan.

What would the drilling accomplish in the Jonah Infill Area?

The proposed project would enhance recovery of natural gas and condensate reserves present in the Lance and other formations at depths of approximately 11,000 feet in the JIDPA by drilling additional wells in the area.

Existing development of natural gas and condensate resources in the area was authorized by three earlier NEPA processes and decisions. Approximately 497 well pad locations and 533 wells with associated access roads and pipelines are currently authorized or committed to within the JIDPA.

How will the companies extract the natural gas from the proposed project area?

Standard procedures as currently used in gas field developments throughout Wyoming would be employed during project development and operations, and all project activities would comply with applicable federal, state, and county laws, regulations, and stipulations. Gas from the project would be transported through existing pipelines linking the JIDPA with existing regional pipelines north and south of the area.

Will directional drilling be used?

The Operators propose to use directional drilling minimally because of economic, technological and subsurface geology conditions. Directional drilling allows multiple well bores to be drilled from a single well pad, and generally reduces the total acres of initial surface disturbance. However, directional drilling takes more time and increases impacts to air quality. Additionally, it is not always economically or technically feasible.

What alternatives were considered in the FEIS?

Five alternatives were analyzed in the FEIS; the No Action, Proposed Action, Alternative A, Alternative B and the Preferred Alternative. The alternatives are described below.

- The *No Action* alternative rejects the Operator's proposal and continues existing management practices.
- The *Proposed Action* is to drill up to 3,100 additional gas wells on up to 16,200 acres of additional new (drilling phase) surface disturbance, at a rate of 250 wells drilled per year (approximately 20 drilling rigs working year-round).
- *Alternative A* analyzes maximum resource recovery by removing certain existing restrictions.
- *Alternative B* analyzes maximum resource protection and requires all new wells be drilled directionally from existing pads.
- The *Preferred Alternative* proposes to allow a maximum of 14,030 acres of surface disturbance field-wide at any given time. The Operators could subsequently be allowed a credit against the surface disturbance ceiling based on successful interim reclamation, up to a maximum of 3100 wells and 20,400 acres (as included in the Proposed Action).

Where can I obtain a copy of the Jonah Infill Drilling Project Draft EIS?

The Jonah Infill Drilling Project FEIS can be found on the BLM website at: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/pfodocs/jonah/. The Sublette County Library (both Pinedale and Big Piney branches), State Library, and University of Wyoming Coe Library have hard copies and CDs of the document. Hard copies or CDs may be requested in writing from: BLM-Pinedale Office, Jonah Infill DEIS, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, WY 82941.

How can I submit comments on the EIS?

BLM can best use comments if they are submitted by close of business **Monday, February 13** 2006. Comments may be mailed to: Jonah Infill Drilling Project, BLM-Pinedale Field Office, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, WY 82941. Email comments may be submitted to: WyMail_Jonah_Infill@blm.gov

How can I make my comments more effective?

Comments should be as specific as possible and are most helpful if they include suggested changes, sources or methodologies. Comments that contain only opinions or preferences will not receive formal responses, but will be considered as part of the BLM decision-making process.