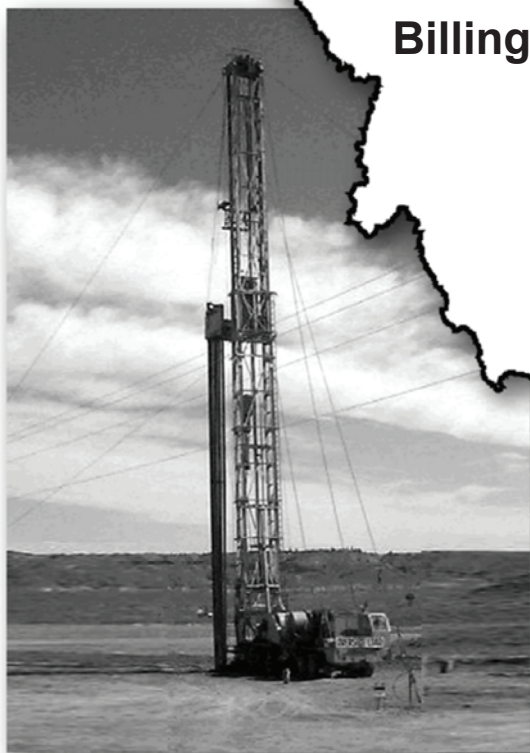


# MONTANA

**Final Supplement to the Montana  
Statewide Oil and Gas Environmental  
Impact Statement and Proposed  
Amendment of the Powder River and  
Billings Resource Management Plans**



## VOLUME I

October 2008

Miles City Field Office



The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all times. Management is based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation; rangelands; timber; minerals; watershed; fish and wildlife; wilderness; air; and scenic, scientific, and cultural values.



# United States Department of the Interior



IN REPLY TO: 1610

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Montana State Office  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, Montana 59101-4669  
<http://www.blm.gov/mt>

October 10, 2008

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared the *Final Supplement to the Montana Statewide Oil and Gas Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Amendment of the Powder River and Billings Resource Management Plans* (FSEIS). This proposed plan amendment is a result of U.S. District Court issued orders, dated February 25, 2005, and April 5, 2005, requiring BLM to prepare a Supplemental EIS to evaluate a phased development alternative for coal bed natural gas production. The U.S. District Court also advised the BLM to include the proposed Tongue River Railroad in the cumulative impact analysis and analyze the effectiveness of water well mitigation agreements.

The FSEIS is a reissue of the original BLM 2003 *Montana Statewide Oil and Gas Environmental Impact Statement and Amendment of the Powder River and Billings Resource Management Plans (RMPs)* (Statewide Document). With the exception of minor edits, new text supplementing the Statewide Document is shaded gray for easy identification.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs; Crow Tribe; Department of Energy; Environmental Protection Agency; Lower Brule Sioux Tribe; Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation; Montana Department of Environmental Quality; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Big Horn, Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Powder River, Rosebud, Treasure, and Yellowstone counties participated in the development of the SEIS as Cooperating Agencies.

The FSEIS was developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). It is based on Alternative H, the preferred alternative in the *Draft Supplement to the Montana Statewide Oil and Gas Environmental Impact Statement and Amendment of the Powder River and Billings Resource Management Plans* (DSEIS), which was released on February 2, 2007; and the DSEIS *Supplemental Air Quality Analysis* which was released on December 12, 2007. The proposed land use amendment is described by Alternative H in the FSEIS. Changes between the DSEIS and FSEIS are indicated in text boxes inset at the beginning of each chapter. The FSEIS contains the effects of adopting the proposed land use plan amendment, a summary of written and verbal comments received during the public review periods on the DSEIS and the supplemented air quality analyses, and a response to comments.

The BLM has initiated activities to coordinate and consult with the Montana Governor on the FSEIS. Prior to the issuance of a record of decision and approval of the FSEIS, the Governor will be given the opportunity to identify any inconsistencies between the proposed land use plan amendment and state or local plans and to provide recommendations in writing during the 60-day consistency review period required by the BLM land use planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.3-2).

The Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, in the Department of the Interior is the responsible official for this proposed land use plan amendment. This proposed amendment is not subject to administrative review (protest) under the BLM or Departmental regulations (34 CFR 1610.5-2).

FLPMA and its implementing regulations provide land use planning authority to the Secretary, as delegated to the Assistant Secretary. Because the Record of Decision is to be signed by the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, it will be the final decision for the Department of the Interior.

As required by NEPA, the Environmental Protection Agency will publish a Notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the availability of the FSEIS. Because there is no administrative review of the decision, the Record of Decision will not be signed until at least 30 days after the Notice of Availability for the FSEIS appears in the Federal Register (see 40 CFR 1506.10[b]). The Department of the Interior will wait until the Governor's consistency review has been completed before signing and issuing the Record of Decision for the land use plan amendment.

There are a limited number of hard-copy books available upon request. If you would like a book, or have any questions, please contact the BLM Miles City Field Office at (406) 233-2800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene R. Terland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "G".

Gene R. Terland  
State Director, Montana/Dakotas

**FINAL SUPPLEMENT  
TO THE  
MONTANA STATEWIDE OIL & GAS  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
AND  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE  
POWDER RIVER AND BILLINGS  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Bureau of Land Management

October 10, 2008

Recommended  
by:



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James M. Sparks, Billings Field Manager

Recommended  
by:



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M. Elaine Raper, Miles City Field Manager

Approved by:



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Gene R. Terland, State Director, Montana/Dakotas