



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Glenwood Springs Field Office

50629 Highway 6 and 24

P.O. Box 1009

Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81602

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1610

CO-140

June 7, 2005

Pete Kolbenschlag  
Western Slope Field Director  
Colorado Environmental Coalition  
1000 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 40  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Mr. Kolbenschlag:

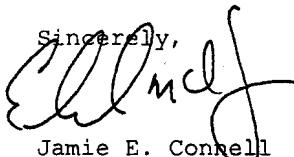
I have received and reviewed your comments of April 11, 2005, and your electronic correspondence of June 2, 2005, requesting that BLM correct information contained in the Reasonable Foreseeable Development scenario (RFD) for the Roan Plateau planning area, pursuant to Section 515 of the Treasury and Consolidated Agencies Appropriations Act of 2001, commonly known as the Data Quality Act or DQA. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued guidelines for the implementation of this Act, which have been considered in my decision on this matter. BLM guidelines implementing the DQA provides that "the BLM may not consider a separate request for correction of information if it pertains to BLM actions which already provide a mechanism by which comments can be submitted." Your request for correction of the RFD under the DQA, outside of the NEPA and land use planning processes, would be duplicative and unnecessary. Your request for correction of information outside of the NEPA and land use planning processes is therefore denied, and BLM will not take the separate corrective action requested. However, BLM will continue to consider your request under the NEPA and land use planning processes described above.

BLM is currently considering all substantive comments made on the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMPA/Draft EIS). The process is guided by regulations for implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) found at 40 CFR 1500 and BLM's land use planning regulations found at 43 CFR 1600. Responses to comments or changes in the alternatives and analysis, if determined by BLM to be needed and appropriate, will be incorporated in the Proposed Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to 40 CFR 1503.4. A copy of the RFD dated February 5, 2004 was included as Appendix H in the Draft RMPA/EIS. The RFD serves as a projection of oil and gas exploration, development, production and reclamation activity. The RFD covers oil and gas activity in a defined area for a specified period of time. The RFD is neither a planning decision, nor an alternative in and of itself. It is used in the development of alternatives. While it represents what may occur, projections the RFD contains regarding the future should not be viewed as data or fact. Although factual data pertaining to past activity is contained in the RFD, scenarios regarding future activity remain projections subject to uncertainty and interpretation. Your comments on the Draft RMPA/Draft EIS will be addressed and responded to in the Proposed Plan/Final EIS. BLM will update the analysis if we find it is needed, and as appropriate, within the

framework of the processes mentioned above.

If you wish to seek reconsideration of this decision, you may send a petition to Ronnie Levine, Chief Information Officer, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street N.W., Mail Stop 3329, Washington, D.C. 20240. Ms. Levine's phone number is 202-208-7701. Her fax number is 202-208-5902. Your appeal for reconsideration should contain the following information: (1) an indication that the person or organization(s) is seeking an appeal from a BLM decision on a previously submitted request for information, including the date of the original submission and date of BLM decision, (2) an indication of how the individual or organization(s) is (are) an "affected person" under the DQA, (3) name and contact information (organizations submitting an appeal should identify an individual as a contact), (4) an explanation of why the appealing entity disagrees with the BLM decision, and if possible, a recommendation of corrective action, and (5) a copy of your original request and/or comments that indicate a need for the correction of information.

Sincerely,



ACTING Jamie E. Connell  
Field Manager

cc: Ronnie Levine, WO-500  
Jim Horan, WO-560  
Adrian Caufield, CO-954  
Duane Spencer, CO-922  
Sherri Thompson, CO-931