

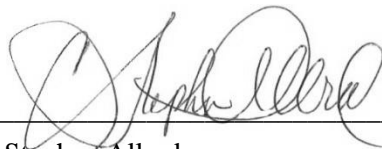
# RECORD OF DECISION

## MONTANA STATEWIDE OIL AND GAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND AMENDMENT OF THE POWDER RIVER AND BILLINGS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Prepared by:  
United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Miles City Field Office  
Miles City, Montana

Cooperating Agencies: 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, Montana

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_



C. Stephen Allred  
Assistant Secretary Land and Minerals Management  
Department of the Interior

Date: December 30, 2008

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

**Lead Agency:** U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**Type of Action:** Administrative

**Jurisdiction (Planning Area):** The planning area encompasses BLM-administered lands and minerals in the Powder River Resource Management Plan (RMP) area - Powder River, Carter, and Treasure counties and portions of Big Horn, Custer and Rosebud counties; and the Billings RMP area - Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland, and Yellowstone counties and the remaining portion of Big Horn County. The planning area contains about 1,506,011 acres of federally managed surface, and 5,009,784 acres of federal mineral estate.

**Abstract:** As a result of lawsuits, the U.S. District Court issued orders, dated February 25, 2005, and April 5, 2005, that required the BLM to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to evaluate a phased development alternative for coal bed natural gas (CBNG) production. The U.S. District Court's February 25, 2005, order 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.

Alternative H is the Approved Alternative. The Approved Alternative provides a comprehensive framework for managing oil and gas resources on public lands in the planning area. This alternative amends the Powder River and Billings RMPs and provides for CBNG exploration and development while minimizing impacts on environmental resources.

Further information regarding this ROD is available via the contact below or at the BLM website ([http://www.blm.gov/eis/mt/milescity\\_seis/](http://www.blm.gov/eis/mt/milescity_seis/)).

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