

## *ASPEN OPERATING, LLC*

# **WHITEWATER OIL AND GAS FIELD MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **The Company**

- Aspen Operating, LLC  
2040 W. Hamilton Place  
Sheridan, Colorado 80110

### **Proposal**

- Natural gas exploration and development over a 3 year period
- 24 sites (14 new and 10 existing or previously reclaimed)
- 2 wells per site initially, then up to 126 additional wells
- 174 wells total
- 3.3 miles of new road; 21.5 miles of improved road
- 28 miles of natural gas gathering lines along existing roads
- Small rubber-tired drill rig would reduce surface disturbance
- Typical pad size is proposed to be  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre

### **Location**

- Southern Mesa County
- East of Whitewater, from Kannah Creek area to Halls Basin
- Mostly BLM-administered public lands – Grand Junction Field Office
- 64 wells have been drilled in this area over the past 30 years

### **Proposed drilling method**

- Drilled with air (rather than mud) using relatively small rubber-tired rigs
- Very little water used; an air mist minimizes dust and lubricates down-hole tools
- Surface casing is run to a depth of about 500 feet (below the deepest water wells in the area)
- One vertical and one horizontal well per pad during exploration phase
- Up to 7 additional wells per pad depending on the exploration results

### **Surface facilities**

- 220 by 150 foot pads reclaimed to approximately 150 by 150 following completion of well drilling
- Separator unit (separates gas, oil, and produced water)
- Two to nine well heads per pad (one pump jack might be needed on some pads for oil production from vertical wells)
- Small, low-profile storage tanks for oil and produced water
- Fencing to keep wildlife and livestock off pads

## **Reclamation**

- Aspen would reduce the need for interim reclamation by avoiding use of cuts and fills for drill pads where possible
- Approximately 1/3 of each pad would be reclaimed at the start of the production phase following completion of drilling and well development
- Following well abandonment, all surface disturbances would be re-contoured and re-vegetated according to a BLM-approved reclamation plan
- Disturbed surface areas would be reclaimed to dry rangeland for wildlife habitat and/or livestock grazing
- Proposed final reclamation includes:
  - Removal of all production-related facilities
  - Grading all disturbed areas and replacement of topsoil
  - Site stabilization (revegetation and erosion control)
  - Reclaiming access roads constructed for the project
  - Long-term monitoring for weed and erosion control and revegetation success

## **Project review process**

- 30-day scoping period though July 7, 2008, to identify issues and concerns
- BLM prepares environmental assessment and Field Manager makes decision
- Decision may be protested to BLM State Director
- State Director's decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals