



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Green River District Office
Vernal Field Office
170 South 500 East
Vernal, UT 84078
<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/vernal.html>



IN REPLY REFER TO:
LLUTG01000
1790
UT-080-07-807

Dear Public Land User:

Enclosed for your review is the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Greater Natural Buttes Area Gas Development Project, which evaluates air quality impacts of the proposed project in comparison to the new NO₂ and SO₂ 1-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). It also discloses recent ozone monitoring data for the Uinta Basin. This document supplements the information and analysis contained in the Greater Natural Buttes Draft EIS, which was released for public review and comment in July 2010. The Supplement to the Draft EIS was prepared in response to concerns from the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the new NAAQS standards and the new monitoring data, which were not available when the Draft EIS was being written, but which came out prior to the Draft EIS public comment period.

The Greater Natural Buttes Project Area (GNBPA) encompasses approximately 162,911 acres in an existing gas producing area located in Township 8 South, Ranges 20 through 23 East; Township 9 South, Ranges 20 through 24 East; Township 10 South, Ranges 20 through 23 East; and Township 11 South, Ranges 21 and 22 East (Salt Lake Meridian) in Uintah County, Utah. Under the Proposed Action, up to 3,675 new gas wells would be drilled over a period of 10 years. Additionally, approximately 760 miles of new roads, 820 miles of buried pipelines, 587 miles of surface pipelines, 7 miles of electrical power lines, 2 mancamps, 2 compressor stations, and water disposal facilities would be constructed to support this proposed development. Total new surface disturbance under the Proposed Action would be approximately 12,658 acres, or 8% of the total GNBPA. Three other alternatives were analyzed in detail: the No Action Alternative, the Resource Protection Alternative, and an Optimal Recovery Alternative.

The Supplement to the Draft EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as other regulations and statutes, to address possible environmental and socio-economic impacts that could result from implementation of the project. This Supplement to the Draft EIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the Decision Maker of the air quality impacts associated with implementing the proponent's drilling proposal, to evaluate alternatives to the proposal, and to solicit other agencies and the public for comments.

You may want to refer to the Draft EIS so that you have the full context for this Supplement, including a description of the alternatives, environment, and anticipated impacts. The Draft is available at http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/vernal/planning/nepa_/greater_natural_buttes.html.

Written comments on the Supplement will be accepted by fax, email, or letter for 45 days following the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you wish to submit comments on this Supplement, we request that you make them as specific as possible, with references to page numbers and chapters of the document. The most useful comments will contain new technical or scientific information, identify data gaps in the impact analysis, or provide technical or scientific rationale for opinions or preferences. Please refer to “Greater Natural Buttes Supplement” in your correspondence. Please provide your comments to:

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Stephanie Howard
Vernal Field Office
170 South 500 East
Vernal, Utah 84078
Fax: 435-781-4410
UT_Vernal_Comments@blm.gov

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. BLM will not consider anonymous comments. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Vernal Field Office from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Comments may be published as part of the NEPA document and other related documents. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. For further information concerning the document, please contact Stephanie Howard at (435) 781-4469.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Stiewig", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael G. Stiewig
Vernal Field Office Manager

Enclosures – As Stated