

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

An environmental assessment (EA) must be prepared when a federal government agency considers approving an action within its jurisdiction that may impact the human environment. An EA aids federal officials in making decisions by presenting information on the physical, biological, and social environment of a proposed project and its alternatives. The first step in preparing an EA is to determine the scope of the project, the range of action alternatives, and the impacts to be included in the document.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508) require an early scoping process to determine the issues related to the proposed action and alternatives that the EA should address. The purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues, concerns, and potential impacts that require analysis in the EA and to eliminate insignificant issues and alternatives from detailed analysis.

The Bridger to Opal Natural Gas project EA was prepared by a third party contractor working under the direction of and in cooperation with the lead agency for the project, which is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Kemmerer Field Office, Kemmerer, Wyoming.

5.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A Scoping Notice was prepared and submitted to the public by the BLM on January 20, 2006 requesting input into the proposed pipeline project. Scoping documents were sent out to the public listed on the BLM mailing list, as well as organizations, groups, and individuals requesting a copy of the scoping document.

There were nine written responses received during the scoping period in response to this project. These written responses did not state a position in regard to the project but provided suggested mitigation if the project were implemented. The issues and concerns identified by the public during the scoping period are summarized in Chapter 1.

During preparation of the EA, the BLM and the consultant interdisciplinary team (IDT) have communicated with, and received or solicited input from various federal, State, county, and local agencies, elected representatives, environmental and citizens groups, industries, and individuals potentially concerned with issues regarding the proposed drilling action. The contacts made are summarized in the following sections.

The following organizations/individuals either provided comment or were provided the opportunity to comment during the scoping period.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Department Of Energy

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 8
U.S. Senator Michael B. Enzi
USDA Forest Service

U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas
USDA National Park Service

STATE AGENCIES

Governor, Jim Geringer
State Representatives
Wyoming Department of Transportation
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
Wyoming Department of Environmental
Quality

State Senators
Wyoming Office of Federal Land Policy
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Lincoln County Commissioners
Sweetwater County Commissioners

Sublette County Commissioners

MUNICIPALITIES

Mayor of Big Piney
Mayor of Fort Bridger
Mayor of Green River
Mayor of Lyman
Mayor of Mountain View

Mayor of Diamondville
Mayor of Granger
Mayor of LaBarge
Mayor of Marbleton
Mayor of Opal

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Arapaho Wind River Traditional Elders
Eastern Shoshone National
Northern Ute Cultural Committee
Shoshone Tribal Cultural Center
Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Office

Arapahoe Business Council
Northern Arapaho Business
Shoshone Tribal Business Council
Shoshone-Arapaho
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

LOCAL MEDIA

A press release was sent to local media.

LANDOWNERS, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, AND GRAZING PERMITTEES

This scoping notice has been sent to known property owners, industry representatives, and grazing permittees that would be affected by this project.

OTHER AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS

National Wildlife Federation
Oregon/California Trails Association
People for the USA
People for Wyoming

Southwest Wyoming Mule Deer
Foundation
The Wilderness Society
The Nature Conservancy

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Petroleum Association of Wyoming
 Sierra Club/Wyoming Chapter
 Sierra Club - Regional Director
 Sweetwater Wildlife Association

Trout Unlimited
 Western Mule Deer Foundation
 Wyoming Outdoor Council
 Wyoming Public Lands Council

5.2 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following tables identify the core BLM IDT (Table 5-1) and the consultant IDT (Table 5-2) that were principally involved with preparing this EA.

Table 5-1. List of BLM Interdisciplinary Reviewers

Name	Responsibility
KEMMERER FIELD OFFICE	
Kelly Lamborn	BLM IDT Lead, Realty
Wally Mierzejewski	Visual Resources/Recreation
Lynn Harrell	Cultural Resources
Pat Netherly	Vegetation/Range Issues
Gary McNaughton	Paleontology/Geology
Dale Wondercheck	Wildlife
Lara Oles	T & E Issues
PINEDALE FIELD OFFICE	
Bill Wadsworth	Realty
Lisa Solberg	Wildlife/T & E Issues
Dave Vlcek	Cultural Resources
Steve Laster	Range Resources
Carrie Becker	Reclamation
Dave McCulloch	Compliance
ROCK SPRINGS FIELD OFFICE	
Patricia Hamilton	Realty
John MacDonald	Soils/Pipeline construction/reclamation
Dennis Doncaster	Hydrology/Water Quality

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Name	Responsibility
Colleen Sievers	Cultural Resources
Jay D'Ewart	Vegetation/Range Issues
John Henderson	Fisheries
Jim Dunder	Wildlife/T & E Issues
Jim Glennon	Zone Botanist
Kevin Lloyd	Wild Horses
Kent Rentmeister	Paleontology
Bonnie Bruce	Cultural/Native American Resources
Jo Foster	Visual/Recreation Resources
WYOMING STATE OFFICE	
Susan Caplan	Air Quality

Table 5-2. List of Consultant Interdisciplinary Team EA Preparers

Principal Interdisciplinary Team		
Name	Affiliation	Responsibility
Gary Holsan	Gary Holsan Environmental Planning	Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Project Manager
Susan Connell	TRC Environmental Corporation	Air Quality
Jana Pastor	Western Archaeological Services	Cultural Resources
Charles Bucans, P.E.	Star Valley Engineering	Project Coordinator/Editor/Writer
Gus Winterfeld	Erathem Vanir Geological	Geology, Soils, Paleontology
Larry Bennett	Hayden-Wing Associates	Vegetation, Wetlands, Wild Horses
Travis Olson	Hayden-Wing Associates	Wildlife/T & E Issues
Chad Olson	Hayden-Wing Associates	Wildlife/T & E Issues
Mike Evers	WWC Engineering	Water Quality
George Blankenship	Blankenship Associates	Socioeconomics, Transportation