



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828



In Reply Refer To:

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Dear Reader:

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Jonah Infill Drilling Project (JIDP) is submitted for your review and comment. The FEIS has been prepared to provide a basis for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to decide whether to approve additional infill drilling in the Jonah Field, and if so, what approach balances all resources uses to the best advantage. This document has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of the drilling and production operations of natural gas wells and associated access roads, pipelines, and production facilities proposed by several companies within the project area located in Sublette County, Wyoming.

Three technical support documents (TSDs) have also been prepared in conjunction with the FEIS. These documents contain detailed technical information for (1) air quality modeling, (2) socio-economic modeling, and (3) development procedures, including a transportation plan, reclamation plan, and hazardous materials management plan. The air quality modeling and socio-economic analysis TSDs are available upon request; the development procedures are included as an appendix to this document. The documents are also available for review at the BLM offices listed below. In addition, the FEIS and the TSDs may be viewed or downloaded from the BLM website at <http://www.wy.blm.gov>.

Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
432 E. Mill Street
P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

The Jonah Infill Drilling Project Area (JIDPA) includes approximately 30,500 acres with surface ownership at approximately 94 percent federal (28,580 acres), 2 percent (640 acres) and 4 percent State of Wyoming (1,280 acres). Currently within the JIDPA there are more than 500 producing and shut-in natural gas wells, and an extensive infrastructure of roads and pipelines for natural gas production.

Five alternatives have been analyzed in detail in this FEIS. The BLM determined that the additional five alternatives that had previously been analyzed in the Draft EIS do not warrant

further consideration. The Proposed Action proposes to develop the natural gas resource by drilling up to 3,100 new wells on up to 16,200 acres of new surface disturbance over the next 12 years. To support gas field production, the Proposed Action includes development of infrastructure such as roads, pipelines, water wells, and other ancillary facilities needed to link the wells with existing transportation systems.

Under the No Action alternative, the effects of limiting development in the JIDPA to those that have been analyzed in previous environmental documents (Jonah Field II Natural Gas Project FEIS, 1998 and Modified Jonah Field II Natural Gas Project Environmental Assessment, 2000) are considered and provide a basis for comparison of alternatives.

Alternative A proposes to develop 3,100 new wells on up to 3,100 new well pads with the same additional infrastructure and time period as described for the Proposed Action. Certain lease stipulations and conditions of approval would not be included to facilitate recovery of natural gas. Alternative B also proposes to develop up to 3,100 new wells, but at a slower pace of development and within restriction of use of the current 497 well pads.

The Preferred Alternative proposes field development based on strict reclamation performance objectives, with a ceiling on the total percentage of surface disturbance within the JIDPA allowed at any one time. This alternative is the agency preferred alternative.

If you wish to submit comments on the FEIS, we request that you make them as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies. Comments that contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response from the BLM. However, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision making process.

Comments will be accepted for thirty (30) days following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Please send written comments to:

Mike Stiewig, Project Lead
Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, Wyoming, 82941

This FEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and other regulations and statutes to address the environmental and socio-economic impacts which could result from the project. This FEIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and interested agencies of impacts associated with implementing the proponents' drilling proposal, to evaluate alternatives to the proposal, and to solicit comments. This FEIS also provides information to other regulatory agencies for use in their decision-making process for other permits required for implementation of the project.

A copy of this FEIS has been sent to affected federal, state, and local government agencies, and to those persons who have indicated that they wish to receive a copy of the FEIS. Copies of the FEIS are available for public inspection at the BLM offices listed above.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mike Stiewig, Project Lead, at the Pinedale Field Office, address shown above, or by phone (307) 367-5363.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert A. Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Robert A. Bennett
State Director