

3.0 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Development

- Any new surface disturbance associated with highway and airport maintenance projects (e.g., resurfacing) would be minimal or would involve lands that previously were disturbed, but which have since been revegetated.
- New surface disturbance associated with future public infrastructure and private commercial and industrial development would be limited and occur primarily within or adjacent to the presently urbanized areas.

3.13 Relationship Among Projects

Many of the energy-related and industrial projects in the PRB study area are interdependent. In addition, many of the RFD activities in the PRB are interrelated or dependent upon other types of industries to provide the necessary infrastructure to support their development and operation. For example, coal mines are dependent on rail lines with sufficient capacity to transport coal to power plants outside of the PRB, or on the presence of mine-mouth coal-fired power plants. Power plants in turn are dependent on the availability of sufficient transmission line capacity for the transport of electricity to markets. The oil and gas industry is dependent upon the availability of sufficient transportation pipeline capacity for the transport of product to markets outside of the basin. Alternately, some of the identified projects are related from the standpoint of resource impacts, such as the potential cumulative effects of groundwater drawdown associated with the coal mine and CBNG industries. As a result, the PRB Coal Review has included the array of projects identified above to define the development limitations that exist as a result of their interdependency (a factor in determining the likelihood for development of the RFDs) and to fully analyze the potential impacts in the study area.