



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

73544 Highway 64
Meeker, Colorado 81641



IN REPLY REFER TO:
CO110 (1610)

November 9, 2006

Dear Reader:

BLM recently made available for public review three Environmental Assessments (EAs):

1. EGL Resources, Inc. Oil Shale Research, Development and Demonstration (CO-110-2006-118-EA)
2. Chevron U.S.A., Inc. Oil Shale Research, Development and Development (CO-110-2006-120-EA)
3. Shell Frontier Oil and Gas, Inc. Oil Shale Research, Development and Development (CO-110-2006-117-EA)

BLM has completed its analysis of comments received during these review periods and has responded to all substantive comments. A total of 72 submissions were received comprising more than 750 comments. Comment summaries and responses are provided in the attached tables.

The EAs incorporate changes BLM deemed appropriate based on public comments. A summary of changes made to the EA has been developed for each of the three assessments and is enclosed. The revised EAs and the comment responses are available in final form on the internet at: <http://www.co.blm.gov/wrra/nepa.htm>. All comments are available for public review at the BLM White River Field Office.

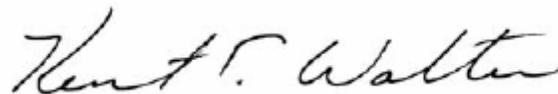
BLM has determined that the proposed Oil Shale Research, Development and Demonstration projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Accordingly, BLM has decided to issue Oil Shale Research, Development, and Demonstration leases to EGL Resources, Inc., Chevron U.S.A. Inc., and Shell Frontier Oil and Gas Inc. for the demonstration of their shale oil extraction technology. This decision is contingent upon each company submitting a detailed Plan of Development and fulfilling all applicable environmental commitments and monitoring as described in the Decision Record associated with each EA (enclosed with the Finding of No Significant Impact).

BLM is committed to consultation and coordination with interested individuals, organizations, local governments, state and federal agencies. Involvement and input from all of these entities was a vital component of the oil shale EA preparation. Collaboration and public involvement for the Oil Shale RD&D projects included:

- Public open houses in four communities - Rangely, Meeker, Rifle and Grand Junction;
- Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for all five RD&D projects concurrently;
- Tribal notification;
- 30-day public review periods on each EA:
 - EGL EA public review period was August 1 through September 1, 2006
 - Chevron and Shell EA public review periods were August 15 through September 18, 2006
- Monthly coordination meetings in the BLM Colorado State Office with local, state and federal agencies on the progress in the RD&D effort.

Thank you for providing input to the BLM on the oil shale RD&D environmental assessments. The comments we received greatly assisted us in ensuring the analyses were comprehensive and consistent among all five RD&D projects. BLM's decision represents an opportunity to develop domestic energy sources and to inform and advance knowledge of commercially viable production, development and recovery technologies consistent with sound environmental management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent E. Walter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kent E. Walter
Field Manager

Enclosures

Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record
Summary of EA Changes
Comment Response Tables