



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Price Field Office  
125 South 600 West  
Price UT, 84501



In reply refer to: LLUT020000-10-L13110000-EJ0000-24-1A

July, 2010

Dear Reader:

This Record of Decision (ROD) provides for natural gas drilling on leased Federal lands in the West Tavaputs (WTP) Project Area. The ROD culminates an approximately 5-year process of a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of implementing the WTP Full Field development Natural Gas Project.

Guidance from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) normally requires a minimum 30-day waiting period between the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the FEIS and issuance of a ROD. However, because this ROD is subject to a 30-day appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), the BLM has decided to issue the ROD at the same time as the FEIS as provided for in 40 CFR 1506.10(b). This allows the 30-day appeal period for this ROD, and the 30-day waiting/availability period for the EIS to run concurrently.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) supporting this ROD was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws, regulations and statutes to fully disclose the potential environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the project and to solicit public comments and concerns. The EIS process was designed to inform the public of a proposal to develop oil and gas on the public lands in the WTP Project Area. The BLM involved the public in the preparation of the Final EIS (FEIS) by hosting numerous public meetings and accepting public comments during initial scoping and on the Draft EIS (DEIS). The BLM also provided information to the public through postings on web sites, news releases, and mailings. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State of Utah, and Carbon, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties were Cooperating Agencies in the analysis.

The Agency Preferred Alternative identified in the DEIS and FEIS was not carried forward as the Selected Alternative in ROD. Rather, the decision is a combination of elements selected from the alternatives discussed in the FEIS. Regulations allow the agency to select a combination of alternatives if the effects of such combined elements of alternatives are reasonably apparent from the analysis in the relevant environmental document (43 CFR Part 46.420(c)).

The BLM has widely announced the availability of this ROD through publication in the Federal Register, the Utah Environmental Notification Bulletin Board (ENBB), BLM websites, and notices in State and local newspapers. A limited number of hard copies of the ROD will be available for review at the BLM Price Field Office. Copies of the ROD may also be viewed or downloaded from the BLM Price Field Office website at [http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price/energy/Oil\\_Gas.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price/energy/Oil_Gas.html). Appeal rights are provided on the page following this letter.

The BLM thanks all of the individuals, organizations, and agencies who provided suggestions and comments on the EIS. Your help has been invaluable in preparing this ROD. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Price Field Office, address shown above, or by telephone (435) 636-3600.

Sincerely,



Jerry Kenczka  
Field Office Manager

#### Appeal Rights:

All decisions are effective 30-days from the date that the BLM publishes Notice of Availability of the Final EIS and ROD in the *Federal Register*. During the 30-days these decisions may be appealed to the IBLA, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington VA., 22203, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR 3165.4 and 43 CFR 8364. The appeal must also be filed with the State Director, BLM, Utah State Office, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR 3165.4 and/or 43 CFR 4.21 of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the IBLA, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed in 43 CFR 3165.4(c) and/or 43 CFR 4.21(b) which are:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
- (3) The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resource if the stay is not granted;  
and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the State Director.

A copy of the notice of appeal, and statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201 Federal Building 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, no later than 15 days after filing the document with the State Director and/or IBLA.