



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office

P.O. Box 45155

Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

<http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en.html>



In Reply Refer To:
1790 (UTG010)

Dear Public Land User:

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Gasco Uinta Basin Natural Gas Development Project is available for your review and comment. The DEIS analyzes potential impacts and alternatives to the Gasco Energy, Inc., proposed field development project. Located nearly 20 miles south of Roosevelt, Utah, the proposed project area encompasses approximately 206,826 acres located in Township 9 South, Ranges 18 and 19 East; Township 10 South, Ranges 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 East; and, Township 11 South, Ranges 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 East, Salt Lake Base Meridian.

This DEIS analyzes five alternatives in detail: 1) the Proposed Action Alternative (the agency preferred alternative), 2) a Reduced Development Alternative, 3) a Full Development Alternative, 4) the No Action Alternative, and 5) a Directional Drilling Alternative. The DEIS also contains a discussion of three other alternatives that were considered but dismissed from detailed analysis. Under the Proposed Action, up to 1,491 new gas wells would be drilled and approximately 325 miles of new roads and 431 miles of new pipelines would be constructed. Also, an evaporative facility of approximately 214 acres would be constructed to dispose of produced waters. The Proposed Action would disturb approximately 7,584 acres or 4% of the total project area.

The DEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as other regulations and statutes, to address possible environmental and socio-economic impacts which could result from implementation of the project. Air quality models have been run for the proposed project, including near field, far field and ozone. The results of these Gasco air quality models are consistent with the results of the West Tavaputs EIS air quality models and the more recent Uinta Basin Air Quality Study (UBAQS). This DEIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the decision maker of the impacts associated with implementing the proponent's drilling proposal, to evaluate alternatives to the proposal, and to solicit other agencies and the public for comments.

If you wish to submit comments on this DEIS, we request that you make them as specific as possible, with references to page numbers and chapters in the document. The most useful comments will contain new technical or scientific information, identify data gaps in the impact analysis or will provide technical or scientific rationale for opinions or preferences. Please refer to the Gasco Uinta Basin Field Development Project DEIS in your correspondence. Written comments will be accepted by fax, e-mail, or letter for 45 days following the publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* by the Environmental Protection Agency. The exact dates will be posted on the Utah Environmental Notification Bulletin Board at: <https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/index.php>.

Please submit comments to:

Mail

Bureau of Land Management
Vernal Field Office
Attn: Stephanie Howard
170 South 500 East
Vernal, Utah 84078

Fax

(435) 781-4410

E-mail

UT_Vernal_Comments@blm.gov

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public view, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Utah Vernal Field Office from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Please note that comments may be published as part of the NEPA document as well as other related documents. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available to the public in their entirety. For further information concerning the Gasco Uinta Basin Field Development Project DEIS, please contact Stephanie Howard at (435) 781-4469.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Stiewig
Vernal Field Office Manager