

**AGENDA**  
**PAWG Air Task Group**  
**Tuesday Nov. 30, 2004**  
**Pinedale Public Library**  
**10 am to 5 pm**

- 10:00-10:10 Introductions
- 10:10-11:30 Air Quality 101. A simple overview of air quality. (Terry and Cara)
- 11:30-11:45 Roles and authorities of involved agencies (BLM, USFS, WY DEQ, EPA....) (Terry and Cara)
- 11:45-12:00 Discussions of the general information we are sending you.  
Any questions or clarifications need?? (Terry, Cara)
- 12:00-1:00 LUNCH
- 1:00-2:30 The Pinedale Anticline emissions in relation to the Questar winter drilling proposal EA.  
(Any recommendations to move forward to the BLM??) (Terry, Cara, Mike)
- 2:30-2:45 BREAK
- 2:45-4:00 Review template for monitoring plan provided by Susan C. vs what is shown in the EIS  
appendix C. (Cara, Terry)
- 4:00-4:30 Future note taker options, perceptions, expectations. (All)
- 4:30-4:45 Define and prioritize tasks to be working on.
- 4:45-5:00 Schedule next meeting, questions and review action items. (All)

## **Pinedale Anticline Working Group**

### **November 30, 2004 Air Quality Task Group Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** See attached sign in sheet.

Co-chair Terry Svalberg opened the meeting with members of the group and public attendees introducing themselves.

#### **Introductions:**

##### **Members present**

1. Terry Svalberg, USFS, Air Quality Specialist.
2. Jim Sewell, Shell Exploration & Production Co.
3. Rick Hoffman, Sublette County Waste Management, Supervisor.
4. Kate Forsting, Energy Labs, Environmental Chemistry.
5. William Belveal, concerned citizen.
6. Mike Golas, Questar, Environmental/safety program.
7. Perry Walker, Pinedale resident, private researcher.
8. Jonathan Ratner, Western Watersheds.

##### **Public present**

1. Ted Porwoll, USFS Air Quality Technician, minutes recorder.

#### **Representation:**

- ✚ Cara Casten, AQTG co-chair, WDEQ Air Quality Engineer, was unable to attend due to weather/travel difficulties.
- ✚ Susan Caplan, BLM Meteorologist, BLM liaison, has been directed not to physically attend any more AQTG meetings.
- ✚ The Group agreed that the lack of BLM representation and support in the group is a concern and is an issue which should be presented to the PAWG.
- ✚ Mike suggested that the group needs WDEQ involvement and that a change of venue for the meetings may be required to accommodate members from outside the area.
- ✚ Terry suggested that the next meeting be set up somewhere with conference call capabilities to ensure participation by all of the members.
- ✚ Region 8 EPA has volunteered to provide a representative to the Air Quality Task group. The group agreed that EPA representation would be good. Terry will contact EPA.

#### **Travel and Per Diem:**

- ✚ Terry mentioned that Travel and Per Diem was available to members of the Task Group who needed to travel greater than 50 miles to attend meetings. The BLM will provide per diem and travel at current government rates. Forms for requesting per diem and travel reimbursement are available from Terry.

**Agenda:**

- ✦ Terry presented the agenda for the meeting and asked if there were any additions from the group.
- ✦ Mike suggested that the group produce a list of Action Items at each meeting, which would then be presented to the PAWG for their consideration.
- ✦ Handout (agenda).

**Air Quality 101 (discussion):**

- ✦ NAAQS, National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- ✦ WAAQS, Wyoming Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- ✦ PSD Increments.
- ✦ HAPS, (Hazardous Air Pollutants). Some HAPS are produced by anthropogenic sources, others are produced naturally by plants. The SWYTAF model attempted to quantify the natural background for HAPS.
- ✦ Handout (NAAQS, WAAQS, and PSD Increments).

**NEPA, National Environmental Policy Act (discussion):**

- ✦ CATEX, Categorical Exclusion. > No impacts identified or project is covered by a blanket CATEX for that type of project.
- ✦ EA, Environmental Assessment. > FONSI, Finding of No Significant Impact or > Finding of significant impacts elevates the analysis to an EIS.
- ✦ EIS, Environmental Impact Statement. Identifies all impacts associated with a project and proposes mitigation for those impacts.
- ✦ Jonathan mentioned that there are good descriptions of NEPA requirements on several web sites including Environmental Protection Agency and Environmental Quality Council web sites.

**BLM NEPA**

- ✦ Most members of the group agree that the Questar Year Round Drilling Proposal is a good one, but that BLM has failed to do the proper level of analysis.
- ✦ In the PAPA EIS Record of Decision, model runs showed impacts to visibility in several Class 1 areas. The USFS reviewed the days of modeled cumulative impacts greater than 0.5 deciviews and determined that the cumulative impacts from the Pinedale Anticline Project, combined with other proposed projects in SW Wyoming would significantly impact visibility in the Bridger Wilderness. However, based on the application of emission reduction mitigation efforts by Ultra Petroleum, which resulted in a 1000 tons/year reduction of NOx at the Naughton Power Plant, and considering the timing, magnitude and duration of the remaining projected cumulative visibility impacts, the USFS considered those impacts within an acceptable range.
- ✦ The PAPA Record of Decision estimated NOx excluding the Naughton Emission Reductions were 1693.62 tons/year and were identified as a significant visibility impact by the USFS, yet the Questar Year Round Drilling Proposal FONSI estimates NOx emissions at 1895.26 tons/year and is not identified as a significant impact.

- ✦ The PAPA EIS estimated 8 rigs operating in the PAPA. During the summer of 2004 there were 32 rigs operating.
- ✦ BLM has failed to consider the cumulative effects of increased levels of development in the PAPA and the Jonah fields.
- ✦ BLM has failed to consider the cumulative effects of increased levels of development in the Big Piney/Labarge field.
- ✦ PAPA EIS total horsepower estimates for drilling rigs is not accurate.
- ✦ A FONSI may not be the appropriate level of analysis for a project with the scale of the Questar Year Round Drilling Proposal.
- ✦ Poor documentation in FONSI. Questar submits data to the Wyoming DEQ Air Quality Division. How did BLM come up with the final numbers? FONSI is lacking documentation of how they arrived at a finding of no significant impact.
- ✦ No NEPA is required for energy development on State Lands.
- ✦ Handouts (Air Quality sections of Draft PAPA EIS, Questar Year Round Drilling FONSI).

#### **Questar Year Round Drilling Proposal**

- ✦ Mike mentioned that Questar will be using 2 efficient diesel/electric rigs equipped with older motors in the PAPA this winter.
- ✦ Questar will be using all Tier II rigs by 2007. This will be a huge investment by Questar and should reduce emissions.
- ✦ By implementing Year Round Drilling Questar should be able to, more easily, keep more efficient rigs and crews working in the PAPA. More efficient rigs and crews should reduce drilling times and reduce emissions.

#### **Wyoming DEQ AQD State Wide Emissions Inventory**

- ✦ The group agreed that the PAWG should stress to Wyoming DEQ AQD that the PAPA and Jonah Fields should be top priorities for the State Wide Emissions Inventory and that then the inventory should be expanded to the rest of Southwest Wyoming.
- ✦ The group agreed that an emissions inventory is needed before they can determine how proposed new projects will affect Air Quality.

#### **Agency Roles and Authority**

- ✦ Terry led a discussion on agency roles and authorities.
- ✦ Handout (Agency Roles and Authorities).

#### **Monitoring Plan (Discussion)**

- ✦ The group discussed monitoring. Several Action Items were identified.
- ✦ Terry presented a draft monitoring plan of Susan Caplan's to the group. The plan identified existing monitoring programs in the area. The USFS Bulk Precipitation Monitoring Program and two NADP sites, (WY-97 South Pass and WY-98 Gypsum Creek), were missing from the list.

- ✦ The group agreed that all historical monitoring data should be included in the plan.
- ✦ Discussion on funding the WY-97 and WY-98 NADP sites. USFS agreements with industry, for funding these sites and the USFS Bulk Precipitation Monitoring sites, expire on December 31, 2004. USFS has been able to piece together funding for these sites through September 2005, but beyond that funding is uncertain.
- ✦ The group agreed that these sites would be valuable to the overall monitoring program and that disrupting the long term records provided by these sites would not be in the best interests of the overall monitoring plan. These NADP sites provide a good "bang for the buck" for the investment required to keep them running.
- ✦ The group agreed that IMPROVE Protocol Scene Monitoring should be re-established at Fortification Mountain. USFS R-2 has cameras available. Cost would be minimal. Need to find out what the costs of re-establishing this program would be.
- ✦ Jonathan suggested that the group identify the strengths and weaknesses of the existing monitoring programs and consider altering the whole program or parts of it while developing the newer parts.
- ✦ Jim asked if we could look at IMPROVE data on a monthly or seasonal basis and compare that with actual rig counts for those periods. The group will look in to this.
- ✦ Terry showed some graphs of NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub> annual levels which were developed with IMPROVE data. The graphs show a marked decrease in SO<sub>x</sub> and a substantial increase in NO<sub>x</sub> since 1999. Interpretation is difficult due to the fact that the same things are showing on a regional scale.
- ✦ Handout (Draft Monitoring Plan).

### **NO<sub>x</sub> Tracking**

- ✦ BLM has failed to track NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from PAPA and Jonah as promised in the March 2000 agreement between the USFS, WY DEQ Air Quality Division, EPA, and BLM, which discontinued the use of the USFS Level of Concern for NO<sub>x</sub>.
- ✦ Handouts (March 2000 Joint Agreement between USFS, WY DEQ AQD, EPA, and BLM, and September 2004 Questar PAPA Drill Rig and Horsepower Spreadsheet).

### **Scheduled Meetings**

- ✦ The group agreed that Ted should be included in the Air Quality Task Group. Terry will present this to the PAWG.
- ✦ The group agreed that Ted should be note taker at the next AQTG meeting.
- ✦ Mike offered the Questar meeting room for the next AQTG meeting. Jim offered the Shell meeting room. Terry offered the USFS meeting room. All of these sites have conference call capabilities.
- ✦ The group agreed that the meetings should be moved around using all of these sites.

- ✦ Two future meetings were tentatively scheduled. January 4, 2005 from 08:00 to 17:00 at the Questar meeting room and January 25, 2005 at the Shell meeting Room. These dates and time are contingent upon availability and posting in the Federal Register.
- ✦ Terry will arrange to have the meeting times posted in the Federal Register.

## **Adjourn**

### **Attachments**

- November 30, 2004 AQTG meeting agenda
- List of attendees
- Handout (NAAQS, WAAQS, PSD Increments)
- Handout (Air Quality sections of Draft PAPA EIS)
- Handout (Air Quality sections of Questars Year Round Drilling FONSI)
- Handout (Draft Monitoring Plan)
- Handout (Agency Roles and Authorities)
- Handout (March 2000 Joint Agreement between USFS, WY DEQ AQD, EPA, and BLM)
- Handout (September 2004 Questar PAPA Drill Rig and Horsepower Spreadsheet)
- Action Items from November 30, 2004 AQTG meeting.

## **Pinedale Anticline Working Group – Air Quality Task Group**

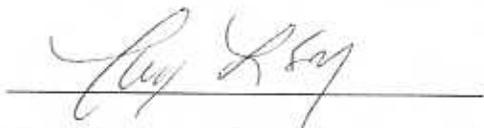
### **11/30/04 Action Items**

- 1) Request more BLM involvement in Air Quality Task Group.
- 2) Seek a location with conference call capabilities for the next Air Quality Task Group meeting.
- 3) Ask for clarification from BLM on emission levels which were considered significant impacts in PAPA EIS, but identified as not significant in Questar Winter Drilling Proposal FONSI.
- 4) Strongly recommend that BLM complete NOx inventory for PAPA and Jonah.
- 5) Stress to Wyoming DEQ AQD that PAPA and Jonah be top priorities for state wide emissions inventory and that the inventory be expanded from there to the rest of SW Wyoming.
- 6) Stress to BLM the importance of maintaining NADP sites, (WY-97 South Pass, and WY-98 Gypsum Creek), and their long term records as part of the monitoring plan for SW Wyoming.
- 7) Re-establish Scene Monitoring at Fortification Mountain. Determine the cost of set up and operation of the site.

Meeting notes from the November 30, 2004 Pinedale Anticline Working Group / Air Quality Task Group meeting have been reviewed and certified as complete and accurate by the Task Group Co-Chairs.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cara Casten", written over a horizontal line.

Cara Casten, Wyoming DEQ / Air Quality Division

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terry Svalberg", written over a horizontal line.

Terry Svalberg, USDA Forest Service