

BLM

JAN 23 2012

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January 12, 2012

Senator Eli D. Bebout  
Wyoming Senate

Bureau of Land Management  
ATTN: Rough Draw, WYW-168317  
1425 Fort Street  
Buffalo, WY 82834

To Whom It May Concern:

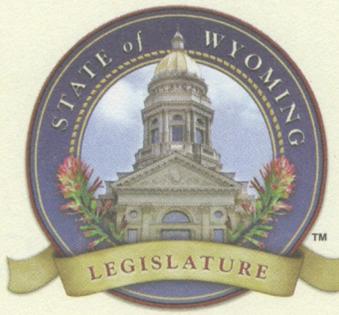
I would like to comment on the NEPA scoping for the Patriot Energy Resources' 43 CFR 2920-1 special use permit. As Chairman of the Senate Minerals Committee, I have been very involved in the creation of Wyoming law and regulations that govern that activity proposed by Patriot. The legislation that put this regulatory scheme in place, Senate File 116 passed the Senate 29-1 and the House 58-2. This legislation puts in place a comprehensive regulatory framework that protects Wyoming's natural resources and allows for the development of a new technology. Obviously, Patriot will be required to comply with these laws and the permit conditions that result from this state regulatory process. I hope the BLM considers the comprehensive state regulatory scheme in determining the scope of the NEPA analysis.

Wyoming law requires that Patriot can only proceed if they properly protect our ground water. The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, working with the EPA, has a long history and expertise in water quality regulations and the BLM should rely on the DEQ and the DEQ permitting process to analyze any impacts to water and water quality. BLM should not recreate this analysis, but rely on our DEQ as a competent and effective government agency that is working within its area of expertise. The DEQ and EPA have worked extensively, and will continue to be involved, in establishing and monitoring the extensive regulatory process necessary to proceed with the implementation of this technology and protecting Wyoming's resources. Wyoming law also requires that Patriot have a legally binding commitment to plug and abandon wells and move out of the way if a coal mine plans to mine the coal in this area. Under state law, Patriot will be required to move out of the way if an entity wants to mine the coal.

The BLM should also respect that it has limited or no BLM owned surface within the project area. This should limit the NEPA analysis. Private property owners should be allowed to develop their private surface as they wish with minimal interference from the BLM. I have learned that most of the gas within the area is also privately held. The wishes of these fee gas owners should also be respected and considered in the NEPA analysis.

Committees:

*Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources  
Minerals, Business and Economic Development*



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The NEPA scoping should also consider the environmental benefits of this technology. This application will not involve surface disturbance. The benefits of using existing infrastructure as opposed to drilling new wells, building new pipelines and creating new infrastructure should be obvious. This project will affect private surface landowners and should not involve any BLM surface ownership. The DEQ and EPA have a comprehensive permitting system in place to protect from down-hole environmental impacts. Each of these factors, alone, should result in a minimal NEPA analysis from the BLM.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eli D. Bebout", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eli D Bebout

Wy State Senator