

6.0 Consultation and Coordination

The CEQ regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) require an early scoping process to determine the issues related to the proposed action and alternatives that the EIS should address. The purpose of the scoping process is to actively acquire input from all interested parties to identify important issues, concerns, and potential impacts that require analysis in the EIS, as well as eliminate insignificant issues and alternatives from detailed analysis. The scoping process provides opportunities for all BLM offices, cooperating agencies, other interested parties, and the public to have meaningful involvement early in the BLM decision-making process.

The BLM, with input from cooperating agencies, developed a Draft EIS and sent it to all interested parties for public review and comment. Following a 45-day public comment period, all comments received **were** compiled and responses **have been incorporated as Appendix A** to the Final EIS. The BLM **has modified and clarified** the Draft EIS, as appropriate, **and prepared this** Final EIS, with input from cooperating agencies. **This** Final EIS **has been** distributed to all interested parties for 1 final review. Following a 30-day period on the Final EIS, the BLM will decide whether to develop a ROD and issue approval of Cameco's PoO.

6.1 Agency Participation and Coordination

The BLM is the lead federal agency for this EIS, which was prepared by the BLM Lander FO in Lander, Wyoming. A third-party contractor, AECOM **Technical Services, Inc.** (AECOM), was retained to gather data and prepare documents to support EIS preparation at the direction of the BLM. Specific regulations require the BLM to consult with federal, state, and local agencies about the potential of the Project and alternatives to affect sensitive environmental and human resources. The BLM initiated these consultation activities through the scoping process and has maintained them through regular meetings regarding key topics (e.g., alternatives and impact analyses) with cooperating agencies throughout the NEPA process. Cooperating agencies have been actively involved in the BLM's process for preparing, reviewing, and creating this Draft EIS, as well as in developing mitigations to reduce impacts from the Project. Other federal, state, and local agencies were consulted throughout the process to address specific issues, as needed.

The BLM invited interested federal, state, and local agencies to serve as cooperating agencies for preparation of the EIS; based on agency responses, the following agencies are serving in this role (see Section 1.5, Public Participation, **Table 1-6**);

- Federal Agencies
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- State Agencies
 - State of Wyoming (including 16 departments)
- Local Agencies
 - Fremont County

Cooperating agencies provided input at specific stages during EIS development, as summarized in **Table 1-7**. Input was used to ensure the RPA included agency concerns and that all applicable land and resource management for all agencies was considered in the evaluation of the Project.

6.2 Consultation

Federal laws require the BLM to consult with certain federal and state agencies and entities and Native American tribes (40 CFR 1502.25) during the NEPA decision-making process. The BLM also is directed to integrate NEPA requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements to reduce paperwork and delays (40 CFR 1500.4-5). The following section discusses activities conducted during the NEPA process to meet these requirements.

6.2.1 Tribal Consultation

Federal agencies are directed by the NHPA to consult with any Indian tribe that attaches religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by an undertaking. Tribal consultation is a government-to-government relationship and is the active, affirmative process of: 1) identifying and seeking input from appropriate Native American governing bodies, community groups, and individuals; and 2) considering their interests as a necessary and integral part of the BLM's decision making process. The aim of consultation is to involve affected Native American groups in the identification of issues and the definition of the range of acceptable management options.

Under the auspices of the **AIRFA, EO 13007**, the **NAGPRA** of 1990, and the NHPA, the BLM must take into account the effects of land use decisions on places (i.e., physical locations) of cultural value to American Indian groups. The BLM works in cooperation with American Indian tribes to coordinate and consult before making decisions or approving actions that could result in changes in land use, physical changes to lands or resources, changes in access, or alienation of lands. Federal programs are required to be carried out in a manner sensitive to American Indian concerns and tribal government planning and resource management programs.

Formal consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended, began on May 6, 2011, when the BLM distributed letters to 14 tribes notifying them of the BLM's intent to prepare an EIS for the Gas Hills Project. **On May 7, 2012, the BLM sent a second letter informing the tribes of the cultural resources inventories previously and recently conducted within the GHPA and soliciting any tribal concerns. From May 16 to June 5, 2012, the BLM conducted follow-up calls with the tribes to verify receipt of the May 7 letter and to invite the tribes to participate on a conference call tentatively scheduled for mid-June 2012. In early June 2012, the BLM invited the 14 tribes plus 1 other tribe to participate on a conference call scheduled for June 13, 2012. From September 17 to 21, 2012, the BLM conducted a field tour of the GHPA, in which 6 of the tribes participated.**

The reader is referred to Section 3.2.2.2, Native American Consultation, for more information on the tribal consultation process. Input from the tribes will be requested throughout the development of the document and will continue up to and during Project construction to identify impacts and design mitigation measures that address impacts, pursuant to NHPA and other relevant historic preservation laws and regulations, along with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and Executive Order 13007 (entitled "Indian Sacred Sites").

6.2.2 Fish and Wildlife Consultation

To comply with Section 7(c) of the ESA of 1973, BLM consults with the USFWS to develop a Draft Biological Assessment for proposed projects followed by a final Biological Assessment published concurrently with the Final EIS. Given the lack of threatened and endangered species in the GHPA the BLM does not anticipate the need for formal consultation on this Project.

6.3 Public Involvement

NEPA requires full disclosure and open public participation in the federal decision-making process, including those projects proposed by non-federal proponents that require federal approval. There are two key points during the development of an EIS that the general public is invited to participate: 1) during the scoping period, and 2) during the 45-day review period of this Draft EIS.

Refer to Section 1.5.1, Public Participation and Scoping Summary, for information on the NOI publication, public scoping meetings, and a summary of scoping issues. The BLM continued to accept written comments throughout all stages of Project development. Summaries of both written comments and those received at scoping meetings are included in the Scoping Report, and are available online at the BLM webpage (<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/gashills.html>). The issues and concerns identified by the public during the scoping period are summarized in Section 1.5.1.1, Primary Issues from Public Scoping.

The Draft EIS was distributed for a 45-day public review and comment period on November 16, 2012. The BLM extended the comment period until January 31, 2013 in response to requests from the public. Comments received during this period were reviewed and responses developed for all substantive comments identified. Substantive comments and corresponding responses are provided in Appendix A of this Final EIS. Comments were used to modify, clarify, and/or correct the Final EIS as appropriate.

6.4 List of Agencies, Organizations, and Persons to Whom Copies of this EIS are Sent

6.4.1 Federal Agencies

Bridger-Teton National Forest
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management, Field Office and District Office; Casper, Wyoming
Bureau of Land Management, Field Office; Lander, Wyoming
Bureau of Land Management, State Office; Cheyenne, Wyoming
Bureau of Land Management, District Office; Worland, Wyoming
National Park Service, National Trails System; Salt Lake City, Utah
Natural Resource Conservation Service; Riverton and Casper, Wyoming
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wyoming Regional Office
U.S. Department of Energy; Washington, DC
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Denver, Colorado
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Cheyenne, Wyoming
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Denver, Colorado
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Lander, Wyoming
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Washington, DC
U.S. Forest Service; Lander, Wyoming
Western Area Power Administration

6.4.2 State Agencies

Water Development Commission
 Wyoming Department of Agriculture
 Wyoming DEQ, Administration
 Wyoming DEQ, Air Quality Division
 Wyoming DEQ, Land Quality Division
 Wyoming DEQ, Solid and Hazardous Waste Division
 Wyoming DEQ, Water Discharge Group
 Wyoming DEQ, Water Quality Division
 Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
 Wyoming Department of Revenue, Ad Valorem Tax
 Wyoming Department of Transportation
Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 Wyoming Game and Fish Department
 Wyoming Livestock Board

Wyoming Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investment
 Wyoming Office of the Governor
 Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
 Wyoming State Engineer's Office
 Wyoming State Forestry Division
 Wyoming State Geological Survey
 Wyoming State Grazing Board
 Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
 Wyoming State Land and Farm Loan
 Wyoming State Lands and Investments
 Wyoming State Parks, and Historic Sites, and Trails
 Wyoming Trails Program
 Wyoming Travel and Tourism

6.4.3 County and Local Agencies

Carbon County Commissioners
 City of Casper City Council
 City of Lander
 Fremont County Association of Governments
 Fremont County and Prosecuting Attorney
 Fremont County Commissioners
 Fremont County Natural Resource Planning Committee
 Fremont County Planning Office
 Fremont County Road Department
 Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District

Fremont County Weed and Pest District
 Lander Chamber of Commerce
 Lower Wind River Conservation District
 Natrona County Commissioners
 Natrona County Conservation District
 Popo Agie Conservation District
 Riverton Chamber of Commerce
Riverton Workforce Services
 Sweetwater County Commissioners
 Wyoming County Commissioners' Association

6.4.4 Elected Officials

Eli Bebout, State Senator
 Stan Blake, State Representative
 Bill Brauer, City of Casper Council Member
Donald E. Burkhart, Jr., State Representative
 Cale Case, State Senator
Leland G. Christensen, State Senator
 Bernadine Craft, State Senator
 Mike Enzi, U.S. Senator
 Keith Gingery, State Representative
 W. Patrick Goggles, State Representative

Steve Harshman, State Representative
Kendell Kroeker, State Representative
Bill Landen, State Senator
Lloyd C. Larsen, State Representative
Bunky Loucks, State Representative
 Cynthia Lummis, U.S. Representative
Matthew Mead, Wyoming Governor
Jerry D. Paxton, State Representative
Tom Reeder, State Representative
 David Miller, State Representative

Kenyne Schlager, City of Casper Mayor
 Charles K. Scott, State Senator
Tim Stubson, State Representative

Tom Walters, State Representative
 Ronald O. Warpness, City of Riverton Mayor
 Mick Wolfe, City of Lander Mayor

6.4.5 Tribal Organizations

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
 Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
 Crow Nation
 Eastern Shoshone Tribe
 Fort Peck Assiniboiné Sioux tribes
 Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
 Northern Arapaho **Tribe**
 Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Oglala Sioux Tribe
 Rosebud Sioux Tribe
 Shoshone Bannock Tribes
 Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe
 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
 Ute Indian Tribe
 Yankton Sioux Tribe

6.4.6 Libraries

Fremont County Library
 Natrona County Public Library

Riverton Branch Library

6.4.7 Media

Casper Star Tribune
 KCWC Public Television
 KOVE/KDLY Radio
 KTRZ Radio
 KTWO Radio

Lander Journal
 Riverton Ranger Newspaper
 Soshoni Pioneer
 Wyoming Public Television

6.4.8 Organizations

Alliance for Historic Wyoming
 Audubon Council of Wyoming
 Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
 Boone and Crockett Club of America
 Bowhunting Preservation Alliance
 Campfire Club of America
 Center for Biological Diversity
 Delta Waterfowl Foundation
 Ducks Unlimited
 Friends of Wild Wyoming Deserts
 Greater Yellowstone Coalition
 Land and Water Fund of the Rockies
 Mule Deer Foundation
 Museum of the American West
 National Historic Trails Center Foundation

National Rifle Association of America
 National Shooting Sports Foundation
 North American Grouse Partnership
 Oregon-California Trails Association
 Pope and Young Club
 Powder River Basin Resource Council
 Public Lands Foundation
 Quails Unlimited
 Quality Deer Management Association
 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Ruffed Grouse Society
 Sierra Club Wyoming Chapter
 Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife of Wyoming
 The Nature Conservancy
 The Peregrine Fund, Inc.

The Wilderness Society
 Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Prtnrship
 Trout Unlimited

Uranium Watch

Western Watershed Project
 Whitetail's Unlimited

Wildlife Forever

Wind River 4x4 Association

Wind River Alliance

Wind River Program,
 Jackson Hole Land and Trust

Wind River Recreationists
 Wyoming Association of Professional
 Archeologists
 Wyoming Backcountry Horsemen
 Wyoming Falconer's Association
 Wyoming Outdoor Council
 Wyoming Riparian Association
 Wyoming Stock Growers Association
 Wyoming Wilderness Association
 Wyoming Wildlife Federation

6.4.9 Industry/Business

AECOM

Anschutz Exploration Corp.
 Apex Surveying
 Backcountry Horsemen of Wyoming
 Bill Barrett Corporation
 Bjork, Lindley, and Little PC
 Brower Oil and Gas Co., Inc.
 BTA Producers
 Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Co.
 Cameco Resources
 Carousel Energy Operating LLC
 Clear Creek Cattle Co.
 Cluck – Cameron Cattle Co.
 Conoco Phillips Company
 Conservancy of the Phoenix, Inc.
 CWC Outdoor Education
 Dubois Frontier
 Edith's Floral Shop
 El Paso Production Oil and Gas Co.
 EnCana Oil and Gas
 EOG Resources, Inc.
 Exxon Co.
 Fremont County ATV
 Fremont County Cattlemen's Association
 High Plains Power, Inc.
 Independent Petroleum Assoc. Mountain States
 Inexco Oil Co.
 Infinity Oil and Gas Inc.
 IUOE
 J.J. Brown P.G. LLC

James Gores and Associates

Kennecott Uranium Company
 Kinder Morgan, Inc.
 Lander Valley Sportsman's Association
 LJ Drilling
 Louisiana Land and Exploration
 Lou's Drilling
 Lowham Walsh LLC
 Mad Dog and the Pilgrim Booksellers
 Moncrief Oil Company
 Motorized Recreation Council of Wyoming
 MRCON Fremont County ATV
 Nance Petroleum Corporation
 National Outdoor Leadership School
 Orion – the Hunters Institute
 PacifiCorp
 Patina Oil and Gas Corporation
 Petrogulf Corporation
 Petroleum Association of Wyoming
 PHC Reclamation, Inc.
 Philp Sheep Company
 Rio Tinto Energy America
 Rocksources Energy Corporation
 Rocky Mountain Pipeline System
 Rocky Mountain Power
 Sell Wind Energy Inc.
 Southern Wyoming Dirt Riders
 Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manuf Inst
 Strachan Exploration Inc.
 Strathmore Minerals Corp.

Strathmore Resources

Tom Casey, Attorney at Law

Ultra Resources Inc.

U.S. Energy/Crested Corporation

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

Western Gas Resources

Western Nuclear Inc.

Wilbanks Resources Corp.

Wild Iris Mountain Sports

Wind River 4x4 Association

Wind River Consulting

Wold Oil and Gas Company

Wyoming Country Outfitters

Wyoming High Desert Outfitters

Wyoming Sportman Association

Wyoming Sportman for Fish and Wildlife

Wyoming Stock Growers Association

Yates Petroleum Corporation

6.4.10 Individuals

Tom Axthelm

Doug Beahn

Johnathan Busher

Tom Casey

Travis Clyde

Eric Concannon

Jerry Crews

Carla and Robert Crofts

Alan Cross

Ron Cunningham

J. Dee Darnell

Carrie Dobey

Peter Dvorak

Liz Erickinson

John Farley

Victoria Fregoso

William S. Hancock

Scott Harnsberger

George Hartman

Mike Highner

Paula Ellen Hinds

Floyd Krebs

Michael Kuriga

Wendell Manko

Gary Marlin

Paul McCarthy

Jazmyn McDonald

Charlie McIntosh

Cathy Meyer

Alan and Terri Moore

Sue Noecker

Barbara Oakleaf

Tom Ochsuer

Michael Rohe

Joshua Scheer

Suzanne Semich

Eugene Thompson

John A. Whipp M.D.

Perry Willingham

Teddi Y. Winge

Personal Identification Withheld

6.5 List of Preparers and Reviewers

Table 6-1 identifies BLM staff members on the EIS interdisciplinary team for the Project.

Table 6-1 BLM Interdisciplinary Team

| Name | Resource |
|--------------------------|---|
| Kristin Yannone | NEPA Specialist |
| Tom Sunderland | Project Manager |
| Charis Tuers | Meteorology, Climatology, and Air Quality |
| Karina Bryan | Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns, Paleontological Resources |
| Tom Sunderland | Geology, Paleontological Resources, Groundwater and Surface Water Resources |
| Leta Rinker | Land Use |
| Kristin Yannone | Environmental Justice, Socioeconomics, Noise, Public Health and Safety, Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste |
| Jared Oakleaf | Recreation, Transportation, Visual Resources, Wilderness Characteristics |
| Amanda Small | Range Resources, Vegetation |
| Chris Krassin | Soils |
| Jon Kaminsky | Ground Water and Surface Water Resources |
| Sue Oberlie/Sarah Wempen | Wildlife and Fisheries Resources, Wild Horses |
| Sydney Thielke | GIS |

AECOM is the third-party environmental contractor responsible for preparing the EIS under the direction of the BLM. The responsibilities and education of the individual team members are summarized in **Table 6-2**.

Table 6-2 Preparers/Reviews for AECOM and Subcontractors

| AECOM Team Member | Education | Responsibility |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Dan Gregory | M.S., Geology, Colorado State University B.A., Geology, Colorado College | Project Manager |
| Doree Dufresne | B.S., Biology/Microbiology; Minor-Chemistry, Colorado State University | Project Coordinator, Public Health and Safety |
| Peggy Roberts | M.S., Technical Communications (in progress), Colorado State University B.J., Journalism/Public Relation, The University of Texas of Austin | Public Outreach |

Table 6-2 Preparers/Reviews for AECOM and Subcontractors

| AECOM Team Member | Education | Responsibility |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Vince Scheetz | M.S., Systems Management, University of Southern California B.S., Mathematics, Regis College Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University | Meteorology, Climatology, and Air Quality |
| Kim Munson | M.A., Anthropology, Colorado State University B.A., Anthropology, Colorado State University | Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns |
| Bill Berg | M.S., Geology, University of Wyoming B.S., Geology, Colorado State University | Geology, Paleontological Resources, Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste, Public Health and Safety |
| Steve Graber | B.S., Natural Resource Management, Colorado State University B.A., Economics, Colorado State University | Land Use, Lands With Wilderness Characteristics, Noise, Recreation, and Transportation |
| Erin Bergquist | M.S., Ecology, Colorado State University B.A., Environmental Studies and Economics, University of Colorado | Range Resources, Vegetation |
| Bernie Strom/ Planera, Inc. | MCRP (City and Regional Planning) Harvard University B.S. (Urban Planning) Iowa State University | Environmental Justice, Socioeconomics, Visual Resources |
| Terra Mascarenas | B.S., Soil and Crop Science, Concentration in Environmental Science, Colorado State University Certificate of Technology, Pueblo Community College | Soils |
| David Fetter | B.S., Watershed Science, Colorado State University | Surface Water Resources |
| Bob Berry | PhD, Geology/Geochemistry, Princeton University Prof Degree, Hydrogeology, Colorado School of Mines B.S., Geology, University of Hawaii | Ground Water Resources |
| Patti Lorenz | B.S., Wildlife, Colorado State University | Wildlife and Fisheries Resources |
| Chris Dunne | B.S., Natural Resource Management, Colorado State University | Wild Horses |
| Todd White | MCP, Community Planning, University of Cincinnati MEnvSc, Environmental Science, Miami University; Oxford, Ohio M.A., Anthropology, University of Colorado B.A., Geology, Miami University; Oxford, Ohio | GIS |