



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

High Desert District

Pinedale Field Office

1625 West Pine, PO Box 768

Pinedale, WY 82941



In Reply Refer To:
1610 (LLWYD01) P
Adaptive Management Proposal #1 2012

Re: Public Comment Period and Background Information for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Adaptive Management Proposal

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pinedale Field Office (PFO) is accepting public comments on a Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) adaptive management change to the Pinedale Anticline Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Record of Decision (ROD). If approved, the change would extend an air analyst position slated to end in February 2012 for an additional two years and four months through June 2014.

ROD Chapter 4, Section 6c, Page 27, states in part:

"Supplement WDEQ-AQD's existing capability to analyze and report on ambient monitoring data, by funding an (air) analyst (1) in WDEQ-AQD's monitoring group for a period of 2 years, at a cost not to exceed \$160,000 for the two year period.."

The proposed DEQ ROD language change is found in the attached DEQ's December 9, 2011 Memorandum – Addendum. Also attached for your information is DEQ's initial November 1, 2011 Adaptive Management request and DEQ's December 13, 2011 review team member recommendation (that relates to the funding options described below).

The DEQ has two funding options for consideration: the first (and DEQ's preferred option) is to fund the position with an additional \$169,000 in funding to be drawn from the Pinedale Anticline Monitoring and Mitigation fund established in the ROD and described on Section 2.9, page 17; the second option is to use ambient monitoring funds described in the ROD Chapter 4, Section 6b, Page 27. Either funding option first requires adaptive management to modify the ROD's current language regarding DEQ's proposal to extend the current air analyst position into June 2014.

In response to DEQ's initial adaptive management proposal on November 1, 2011, the Pinedale Field Office Manager formalized the creation of a review team to conduct an initial analysis of the proposal.

The review team's analysis concluded that both DEQ funding options have merit; the funding options as outlined by DEQ are time-sensitive (funding for the current air analyst position ends in February 2012); the proposed funding scenarios and related potential ROD word changes (if approved) do not require additional NEPA; and both DEQ funding scenarios may meet the intent of the ROD as another potential mitigating mechanism to continue to address increasingly complicated air quality issues in the Pinedale Anticline Project Area and surrounding area.

In addition to the public comment period (per the PFO's adaptive management process), the DEQ adaptive management proposal will be reviewed by the Pinedale Anticline Working Group and the Pinedale Anticline Project Office Board of Directors.

Written comments on the adaptive management proposal will be accepted until close of business January 6, 2012 and must be mailed or delivered to: Eric G. Decker, Pinedale Field Office, 1625 West Pine Street, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, WY 82941 or emailed to egdecker@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 your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

After the comment period closes, the BLM Adaptive Management Review Team will consider all comments and make a final recommendation to the Pinedale Field Office Manager by February 1, 2012.

If you would like additional information on DEQ's adaptive management proposal or have any questions, please contact Eric G. Decker at 307-367-5386 or egdecker@blm.gov.

Sincerely,



Shane DeForest,
Field Manager

cc: Pinedale Anticline Working Group
Pinedale Anticline Project Office Board of Directors
WYD04: John F. Ruhs, District Manager

3 Attachments:

- 1 - November 1, 2011 DEQ's Initial Adaptive Management request
- 2 - December 9, 2011 DEQ's Addendum
- 3 - December 13, 2011 DEQ's Review Team Member recommendation