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BLM Field Office – Pinedale
Matt Anderson – Project Manager
PO Box 768
Pinedale, WY 82941

Ref: SEIS – Pinedale Anticline

April 5, 2007

Mr. Anderson,

We are writing to express our dissatisfaction with the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement concerning the Pinedale Anticline. There are several aspects of the proposal that are positive: reduced surface disturbance, workforce bussing, consolidated infrastructure. But as a whole, it falls far short in protecting our community, our air quality, our wildlife and its associated habitat.

The pace of this proposed development is truly frightening and quite disturbing – up to 4,000+ wells over the project life, and up to 232 wells per yr. This puts strains on nearly every socio-economic factor of this community, and only fuels the "boom-bust" cycle in Wyoming. Already, crime is significantly higher (people actually have to lock their car doors now), drug (methamphetamine) use is a major problem, schools are straining under the burden, infrastructure is being pushed to the limits, and the cost of housing has gone through the proverbial "roof". This past/current development has nearly ruined, and forever altered the character of Sublette Country. What will this future plan do? A simple question – Why must we go so fast? Why put this community at further risk?

BI-39-1 Air quality has continued to decrease since the drilling began, and the BLM seems to have consistently underestimated the impacts. In 2000, the BLM predicted a maximum of 693 tons in annual NOx emissions – by 2005, emissions were nearly five times that number. How can you be so far off? If this was industry, the BLM would be fired. And,

AQ-1 BI-39-1 your agency has shifted the accountability to the industry. This is far from looking out for our community – the BLM has "one-chance" to get this right. Please don't let industry bully their "wants". The BLM should insist on cleaner technologies and practices, even if this slows development. Further, a cap on emissions and comprehensive monitoring program should be required – this is our home, this is the right thing to do – accountability is everything.

Our wildlife is truly paying the ultimate cost. The once world-class mule deer herd is down more than 40% according to one study (funded by industry); the negative effects on the pronghorn and sage grouse are only now being understood. The lifting of seasonal drilling restrictions which were written into the 2000 BLM Decision – again, the BLM moving the "line" for industry- will further pressure the herds, deny them of critical winter habitat and expose them to undue stress. Why the BLM does not listen to, and take into account the comments of the Wyoming Game and Fish (the agency with the highest scientific expertise in this area) is beyond us. The agency's report, titled, "Recommendations for Development of Oil and Gas Resources within Crucial and Important Wildlife Habitats" is a model to be followed.

G-1 BI-39-2 In the 2000 Decision, the BLM acknowledged that "BLM can regulate the manner and pace of development"....we urge you to look back at this document; is such rapid increase in development really needed? The "balancing line" between responsible development and reckless development, seems to be continuously move toward industries "wants and needs", rather than those of the community. Phased or staged drilling would spread the economic "positives" to the community, while minimizing the "negative" effects – it seems that simple. . The BLM is entrusted with our land, the citizen's land – please live up to that trust.

Sincerely,

JJ & Julia Healy