

4/5/2007

Final Report 37

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BLM:

I have reviewed the Pinedale Anticline SEIS, and like many citizens are deeply concerned about the additional impact the drilling of 4,400 additional wells will have on the environment, wildlife, socioeconomics, and health of residents. In the introductory letter to SEIS it is stated, "comments that contain only opinions or preferences will be considered and included as part of the decision making process, although they will not receive a formal response from the BLM." I agree that comments to the BLM will be more helpful if they include suggestions for change and sources or methodologies. However, please realize that many of us lack the scientific background to make specific recommendations, and hence our comments are broad based yet need to be taken seriously and each of them counted in the overall tabulation.

The assertion is made that because the number of well pads would be reduced that the amount of land directly involved would be less. Where in fact the well pad size would change from around 5 acres to between 20 to 25 acres. The surface disturbance would go from 5,049 acres to 12,278. An area that already is greatly impacted would be subjected to further degradation. The SEIS suggests that drilling be in a core development area and the peripheral areas remain as for wildlife habitat. I could find no language that indicated that this would be enforced. Hence, there is no guarantee that important wildlife range will be maintained. In addition, winter drill restrictions need to be maintained and enforced.

One of the assertions of this proposal is that drilling will occur more quickly, yet the timeframe is still 15 to 20 years. Combined with the Jonah Field activity this means a scale of development that gives little leeway for the protection of a fragile high desert ecosystem. Going faster does not equate to less disruption and quicker reclamation. Doesn't take a scientist to understand how difficult it is to grow sagebrush. Much has already been written (documented by science) about the impact the gas development in this area is having on mule deer populations and sage grouse. The impact of development on other species of wildlife as well as plant life needs to be thoroughly understood before extensive escalated drilling. What levels need to be maintained to ensure continuity of existing wildlife and plant life? These need to be established and strictly enforced.

The socioeconomic section of SEIS is lacking examining in depth and breadth the potential impact additional drilling will have on such infrastructures as our schools, medical system. Law enforcement and "sense of community". The section is too general. and time needs to be spent with those "in the trenches" to assess what the true impacts are

W-1
W-2/VG-1
SE-1

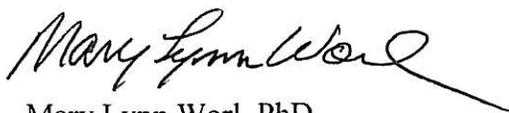
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from the current drilling and for the potential impacts with an increased population resulting from drilling 4,400 more wells.

The SEIS does not specify controls and binding mitigation to deal with the significant impacts on air quality. I defer to Perry Walker and his comments and knowledge in this area. However, as I private citizen I'm very concerned when on a regular basis I can I look out at the vista in several different directions and see haze. Yes, I would like to have a clear view, but most importantly I'm worried about the harm that this is doing to the health of those of us who live and breathe this air. In addition, this is having a negative impact on the high mountain lakes, and changes in pH will impact the entire ecosystem. Strict guidelines for reducing pollution emissions must be established and rigidly enforced.

I truly believe that because of the increased gas development in Sublette County there already has been massive impacts on the environment, wildlife, ecosystems and the socioeconomics of our communities some of which will never be rectified. An escalation of drilling 4,400 more wells on the Pinedale Anticline will further contribute to the decline of something that is far more valuable than millions of cubic feet of natural gas.

Yours truly,



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