

5.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1 SCOPING

A number of meetings and announcements involving the BLM, the Proponents, various agencies, and the public were held to encourage early and improved public participation and agency cooperation. The BLM's Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Supplemental EIS inviting the public to comment on the Operators' proposal for long-term development of the PAPA appeared in the Federal Register on October 21, 2005. BLM mailed a scoping notice to the media, governmental agencies, environmental organizations, industry representatives, individuals, landowners, and livestock grazing permittees. The scoping notice explained the general nature of the project and requested comments. The formal public scoping comment period ended November 20, 2005. Scoping meetings were held in Jackson and Marbleton on November 7, 2005, and in Pinedale on November 8, 2005.

The locations of the proposed transportation corridor/pipeline alignments were not determined at the time of the initial scoping; therefore, an additional scoping notice was issued. The second notice, mailed on April 14, 2006, was sent to the same recipients as the October 2005 scoping notice, as well as individuals and organizations on mailing lists associated with the BLM Rock Springs and Kemmerer field offices. The formal public comment period for the second scoping notice ended on May 17, 2006.

Numerous concerns were identified in the formal scoping process. Comments received during scoping were incorporated into the analysis in the Draft SEIS published in December 2006. Scoping comments are available for inspection in BLM's Pinedale, Kemmerer and Rock Springs field offices. The agencies and government entities that were consulted in the scoping process include the USFWS, USFS, National Park Service (NPS), EPA, State of Wyoming (including WGFD and WDEQ), Sublette County, and the BLM Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team).

5.2 COMMENT ON DRAFT SEIS

The Draft SEIS (BLM, 2006) was available for public comment in December 2006. The public comment period initially ran for 60 days from December 15, 2006 through February 13, 2007. A Supplemental Ozone Analysis was released in early February 2007, and the public comment period was extended to April 6, 2007. BLM hosted an open house on the Draft SEIS on February 13, 2007 in Pinedale.

Over 63,000 comment letters were received on the Draft SEIS (BLM, 2006) citing various rationales either in support of or in opposition to various Alternatives. The BLM received substantive comments from business and industry representatives; environmental groups; federal, state, and local agencies; and individuals about the Alternatives including many suggestions that additional Alternatives be considered. Based upon these suggestions, the BLM formulated two additional Alternatives and made changes to the Draft SEIS resulting in the Revised Draft SEIS (BLM, 2007). The major changes were:

- The affected environment was updated to include more recent baseline data and to include wellfield development that occurred in 2006;
- Two additional Alternatives (Alternative D and Alternative E) were analyzed;
- Additional Proponent-committed mitigation was included in Alternative D; and

- Additional discussion of impacts to socioeconomic, air quality, and wildlife resources based on a range of drilling rigs operating in the PAPA at any one time was included (Appendix 3, Final SEIS).

5.3 COMMENT ON REVISED DRAFT SEIS

The Revised Draft SEIS (BLM, 2007) was available for public comment in December 2007. BLM received over 68,000 comment letters on the Revised Draft SEIS (BLM, 2007). The public comment period lasted for 45 days and ended on February 11, 2008. BLM hosted public meetings on the Revised Draft SEIS in Pinedale on January 17, 2008 and February 7, 2008. This Final SEIS (BLM, 2008) is the result of revisions based on comments on the Revised Draft SEIS. Responses to substantive comments during the comment periods are included in the Final SEIS.

5.4 AVAILABILITY OF FINAL SEIS

A Notice of Availability of the Final SEIS (BLM, 2008) was published in the Federal Register on June 27, 2008. Copies of the Final SEIS were made available on the BLM internet as well as at the Pinedale Field Office.