



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office

P.O. Box 1828

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

In Reply Refer To:

1793 (930)  
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Dear Reader:

This Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed long-term development of natural gas resources in the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA) is submitted for your review and comment. The Draft SEIS has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts from drilling and production operations of natural gas wells and associated access roads, pipelines, and production facilities proposed by Ultra Resources, Inc. (Ultra), Shell Exploration & Production Company (Shell), Questar Market Resources including Wexpro Company (Questar), BP America Production Company, Stone Energy Corporation, Yates Petroleum Corporation, and others who agree to participate, collectively referred to as the Operators. The PAPA is located entirely within Sublette County, Wyoming.

An Air Quality Impact Analysis Technical Support Document (TSD) has been prepared in conjunction with the Draft SEIS. The Air Quality Impact Analysis TSD contains detailed technical information used for air quality modeling. A limited number of the Air Quality Impact Analysis TSDs are available upon request. A supplement to the Air Quality Impact Analysis TSD will be published subsequent to the release of the Draft SEIS. The Draft SEIS and the Air Quality Impact Analysis TSD will be available for review at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices listed below. All of these documents may be viewed or downloaded from the BLM website at <http://www.wy.blm.gov/pfo/nepa.htm>.

Bureau of Land Management  
Wyoming State Office  
5353 Yellowstone Road  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Bureau of Land Management  
Pinedale Field Office  
432 East Mill Street  
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

Public scoping was conducted in 2005 and 2006 after the Operators requested increased access to the PAPA in the winter. The PAPA includes 198,034 acres, of which approximately 158,000 acres (80 percent) is Federal surface ownership, 9,800 acres (5 percent) is State surface ownership and 29,800 acres (15 percent) is private surface ownership. Currently, there are approximately 460 producing natural gas wells in the PAPA with associated infrastructure. Well field development (drilling and construction of well pads, roads, pipelines, and ancillary facilities) in the PAPA was approved in the 2000 Record of Decision for the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project.

Three alternatives are analyzed in the Draft SEIS. Under the No Action alternative (Alternative A), the Operators' proposal (Alternative B) would be rejected.

The Proposed Action Alternative (Alternative B) includes development of the natural gas resource by drilling up to 4,400 additional wells, achieving a bottom hole spacing of approximately 10 acres per well along the crest of the anticline. Multiple wells would be directionally drilled from a single well pad. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, year-round development would mostly occur in three Consolidated Development Areas within a core area defined by the Operators. This would limit year-round development (including winter drilling within crucial winter ranges) and associated disturbance and impacts to the Concentrated Development Areas. Alternative B includes mitigation to offset impacts to other resources, particularly air quality and wildlife.

BLM's Preferred Alternative (Alternative C) is similar to the Proposed Action Alternative in that it includes the same project components (number of wells, well pads, ancillary facilities). However, it is different from the Proposed Action, spatially. That is, rather than only specifying certain areas of development where year-round drilling could occur, Alternative C specifies areas where year-round drilling would not occur. It includes a core area boundary that is different from the core area defined by the Operators in the Proposed Action Alternative. The overall objective of Alternative C is to control spatial disturbance over time maximizing development in some areas while minimizing development in other areas, especially in portions of big game crucial winter ranges. Alternative C includes additional air mitigation to further reduce impacts to nearby sensitive areas and performance-based objectives to further reduce impacts to other resources. Additional information acquired during public comment periods and BLM internal review may result in the selection of an alternative, or combination of alternatives to provide the best mix of operational requirements, mitigation measures and best management practices to reduce environmental harm.

If you wish to submit comments on the Draft SEIS, we request that you make them as specific as possible. Comments are more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies. Comments that contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response from the BLM. However, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision making process.

The BLM can best use your comments if they are submitted within 60 days after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Please submit written comments to:

Matt Anderson, Project Lead  
Bureau of Land Management  
Pinedale Field Office  
P.O. Box 768  
Pinedale, Wyoming, 82941

You may also submit comments electronically at the following address: WYMail\_PAPA\_YRA@blm.gov. Please include "Pinedale Anticline SEIS" in the subject line.

Approximately 30 days following the publication of the EPA's Federal Register notice, the BLM will host a public meeting to receive comments on the Draft SEIS. This meeting will be announced at least 14 calendar days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and mailings.

The Draft SEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and other regulations and statutes to address the environmental and socioeconomic impacts which could result from the project. The Draft SEIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and interested agencies of impacts associated with implementing the Operators' long-term development proposal, to evaluate alternatives to the proposal, and to solicit comments. The Draft SEIS conforms to the current Pinedale Resource Management Plan as well as to the Pinedale Draft Resource Management Plan revision that is currently under way.

Freedom of Information Act Considerations: Public comments submitted for the Draft SEIS, including the names and street addresses of respondents, will be made available for review after the comment period closes. Comments may be examined at the Pinedale Field Office during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Public comments will be published as part of the Final SEIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such request will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The Draft SEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies, and to individuals who commented during scoping.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Matt Anderson, Project Lead, at the Pinedale Field Office, address shown above, or by phone (307) 367-5328.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert A. Bennett". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert A. Bennett  
State Director