



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:

1790 (930)
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DEC 05 2005

Dear Reader:

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project (ARPA) is submitted for your review and comment. The DEIS has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of drilling and production operations of natural gas wells and associated access roads, pipelines, and production facilities proposed by Anadarko E & P Company, LP and others including Double Eagle Petroleum and Mining Company, and Warren Resources, Inc. The project area is located entirely within Carbon County, Wyoming.

Two technical support documents have also been prepared in conjunction with the DEIS. These documents contain detailed technical information for air quality and ground water modeling. A limited number of technical support documents are available upon request. The DEIS and its technical support documents 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/rfo/nepa.htm>

Bureau of Land
Management
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, Wyoming 2009

Bureau of Land
Management
Rawlins Field Office
P.O. Box 2407
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

The ARPA was originally scoped in 2001 as the "Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project." Subsequently, the project was re-named to the "Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project" in view of the proponents request to reduce the number of wells proposed and to develop a limited number of conventional gas wells. The ARPA includes 270,000 acres with surface ownership of approximately 173,672 acres Federal (64 percent), 14,060 acres State of Wyoming (32 percent) and 82,348 acres of privately held surface (4 percent). Currently, within the ARPA there are 116 natural gas wells completed to coal formations. Wells, roads, pipelines, compressors and other facilities have been constructed in conjunction with an interim drilling plan for exploratory evaluation of resources within the area.

Four alternatives are analyzed by this DEIS. The Proposed Action proposes to develop the natural gas resource by drilling up to 2000 wells, 1800 to coal beds and 200 to other formations, for a spacing of up to 80 acres per well. In addition, supporting development including pipelines, roads, and ancillary facilities are proposed. Water produced from coalbed natural gas wells would be re-injected below the land surface.

Under the No Action alternative (Alternative A) the project as proposed would be rejected. Existing Atlantic Rim wells could continue to operate as approved and constructed. Under Alternatives B and C, the same number and types of wells, including supporting development could occur. Under Alternative B, construction activities would be concentrated into one of three zones within the ARPA at a time, focusing construction-related disturbance and impacts. Alternative C evaluates the use of special protection measures that would limit surface disturbance amounts for sensitive resources.

The BLM's preferred alternative is a combination of Alternatives B and C. 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 DEIS, 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 decisionmaking 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:

David Simons, Project Lead
Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field Office
P.O. Box 2407
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

You may also submit comments electronically at the following address:
Atlantic_Rim_EIS_WYMail@blm.gov. Please include "Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project" or "ARPA" in the subject line.

Approximately 2 weeks following the publication of the EPA's Federal Register notice the BLM will host a public meeting to receive comments on the DEIS. This meeting will be announced at least 14 calendar days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and mailings.

This DEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and other regulations and statutes to address the environmental and socio-economic impacts which could result from the project. This DEIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and interested Agencies of impacts associated with implementing the proponent's drilling and development proposal, to evaluate alternatives to the proposal, and to solicit comments.

Freedom of Information Act Considerations: Public comments submitted for this DEIS, including the names and street addresses of respondents, will be made available for review after the comment period closes at the Rawlins 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 EIS. 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.

A copy of the DEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies, and to those persons who have indicated that they wished to receive a copy of the DEIS.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact David Simons, Project Lead, at the Rawlins Field Office, address shown above, or by phone (307) 328-4328

Sincerely,



Robert A. Bennett
State Director