



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
High Desert District  
Rawlins Field Office  
P.O. Box 2407 (1300 North Third Street)  
Rawlins, WY 82301-2407

In reply refer to: 3160 (WYD03)

Dear Reader:

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Development Project is available for your review and comment. It was prepared to analyze the potential impacts of a proposal from BP America Production Company and others for natural gas field development. The Continental Divide-Creston (CD-C) project area encompasses approximately 1.1 million acres (1,672 square miles) in an existing gas-producing area located west of Rawlins, Wyoming in Carbon and Sweetwater Counties.

The CD-C project is an in-fill project with over 4,400 existing oil and gas wells. The Proposed Action includes the development of an additional 8,950 gas wells, including construction of supporting infrastructure—access roads, pipelines, electrical power lines, a central gas-processing plant, and water management and disposal facilities. Construction would begin after the issuance of the Final EIS and Record of Decision and approval of individual Applications for Permit to Drill and/or approved right-of-way grants. Construction would require approximately 15 years. The productive life of the project would extend an estimated 30 to 40 years beyond that, for a combined total project life of 45 to 55 years.

This Draft EIS analyzes the Proposed Action and the following five alternatives in detail:

- Alternative A, 100-Percent Vertical Drilling;
- Alternative B, Enhanced Resource Protection;
- Alternative C, Surface Disturbance Cap—High and Low Density Development Areas;
- Alternative D, Directional Drilling; and
- Alternative E, No Action.

Total new surface disturbance under the Proposed Action would be approximately 47,200 acres, or 4.4 percent of the CD-C project area.

The Draft EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as other regulations and statutes, to address possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could result from implementation of the project. The Draft EIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the decision maker of the impacts associated with implementing the proponent's proposal, to evaluate alternatives to the proposal, and to solicit comments from other agencies and the public. Comments are being sought to ensure that the EIS includes an appropriate range of alternatives to the Proposed Action and that the analysis of environmental effect is appropriate and complete.

The CD-C Draft EIS is available for download on the following website:

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/html>

The Draft EIS is also available for review during normal business hours at the following locations:

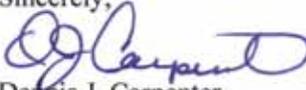
- BLM Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming
- BLM High Desert District Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming
- BLM Rawlins Field Office, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming
- Carbon County Library, 215 West Buffalo Street, Rawlins, Wyoming

If you wish to submit comments, we request that you make them as specific as possible, with references to page numbers and chapters of the document. The most useful comments will contain new technical or scientific information, identify data gaps in the impact analysis, and/or provide technical or scientific rationale for opinions or preferences. Please refer to "Continental Divide-Creston EIS" in your correspondence. Written comments will be accepted by fax, email, or letter for 45 days following the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Please provide your comments to:

Bureau of Land Management  
Attn: David Simons  
Rawlins Field Office  
P.O. Box 2407 (1300 North Third Street)  
Rawlins, WY 82301-2407  
Fax: 307-328-4224  
Email: [BLM\\_WY\\_Continental\\_Divide\\_Creston@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_WY_Continental_Divide_Creston@blm.gov)

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The BLM will not consider anonymous comments. Comments may be published as part of the NEPA document and other related documents. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. For further information concerning the document, please contact David Simons at (307) 328-4328.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Carpenter  
Rawlins Field Office Manager