Questions & Answers
Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Project
Environmental Impact Statement

Q1. What is the purpose of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?
A1. To disclose the effects of a proposal to develop natural gas resources within the Bureau of Land Management's Rawlins Field Office to the public, cooperating agencies, and interested public groups and agencies.

Q2. What issues have been identified in the analysis of this project?
A2. Key issues and concerns identified through scoping are discussed and analyzed in Chapters 3, 4, and 5 of the document, and address the following summary of issues:

- Air quality: Evaluate the potential project and cumulative impacts on air quality, including air-quality-related values.
- Cultural resources: Estimate the impact on the historic trails and transportation corridors in the project area.
- Hydrology (water resources): Discuss the potential for degradation of water quality by project construction and drilling activities and the issues related to disposal of coalbed methane produced water.
- Landownership: Discuss the issues raised by the area's "checkerboard" ownership pattern and its effects on mitigation.
- Non-native, invasive plant species: Evaluate the current and projected presence of non-native, invasive species.
- Rangeland management: Evaluate the potential loss of livestock forage and project-associated hazardous conditions for area livestock/livestock operations.
- Special-status species: Evaluate the threatened, endangered, or candidate species and sensitive wildlife species that could be impacted by the project, and the extent of the potential effects.
- Socioeconomics: Define the impact of the project on traditional socioeconomic indicators such as employment, housing, tax revenues, and human services.
- Surface disturbance/reclamation: Define the extent of existing and proposed surface disturbance and its effects on all resources in the project area.
- Wildlife habitat: Consider whether the project will further fragment wildlife habitat and seriously diminish the value of that habitat for many species.

Q3. How is the proponent planning on addressing these issues?
A3. The BLM, in consultation with cooperating and interested agencies, have developed required best management practices to reduce or eliminate adverse effects from implementing the project. In addition, extensive consultation with interested agencies and other stakeholders has resulted in the development of both air quality and ground/surface water models to predict and analyze project effects.

Q4. What information has been gathered from earlier development in the area?
A4. Information sought for the interim exploration phase of the project includes gas content and productivity of the geologic formations targeted, the economics and feasibility of directional drilling and multi-well pad development, which drilling techniques can be effectively used.

Q5. How are reclamation concerns addressed in the EIS?
A5. Reclamation is addressed through quick and thorough stabilization of disturbed surface areas with natural vegetation. A detailed Appendix created with input from cooperating agencies and an interdisciplinary team of specialist is included in the draft EIS and helps detail the various actions and tools available for successful reclamation.

Q6. Who are the cooperating agencies on this project?
A6. The State of Wyoming, including the Departments of Game and Fish, Environmental Quality and Agriculture, as well as the Little Snake Conservation District, and local Sweetwater County agencies are cooperating agencies for the EIS.

Q7. What economic impact will this project have on the area? How many jobs will be associated with the project?
A7. The EIS predicts tax revenues and royalties of more than $9 billion, and creation of more than 2,500 jobs at peak periods of development.

Q8. What is the scope of the project?
A8. This conventional and coal bed natural gas development project would be located in Carbon and Sweetwater Counties, Wyoming, on a mix of public and private lands. The project is 1.1 million acres in extent, proposes 8,950 new wells and is estimated to produce 12.02 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.