

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office

Case File No.: WYW128688

EA Number: WY-040-EA10-139

Proposed Action Title/Type: Luman Rim Natural Gas Development Project

Location of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to drill 58 additional natural gas wells in the Luman Rim area of north central Sweetwater County, Wyoming in Townships 23 and 24 North, Ranges 98 and 97 West, 6th Principal Meridian.

The Luman Rim project is located in the following sections or portions of sections of Sweetwater County, Wyoming (Table 1.1):

Table 1.1 – Luman Rim Project Area

Township	Range	Section
24 North	98 West	7,13,14,15,16,17,20,21,22,23,24,25,26, 27,28,29,32,33,34,35,36
24 North	97 West	30,31
23 North	97 West	5,6
23 North	98 West	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,16

Applicant: Yates Petroleum Corporation
PO Box 1908
Rock Springs, WY 82902

Pinnacle Gas Resources, Inc.
1 East Alger
Sheridan, WY 82801

BACKGROUND

A project description for the Luman Rim natural gas development project was received by the Rock Springs Field Office (RSFO) in April of 2008. Yates Petroleum Corporation and Pinnacle Gas Resources, Inc. (the operators), propose to drill 58 additional natural gas wells in the Luman Rim area of north central Sweetwater County, Wyoming in Townships 23 and 24 North, Ranges 98 and 97 West, 6th Principal Meridian. The Luman Rim Project is on federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the boundary of the BLM RSFO and on State of Wyoming lands administered by the Office of State Lands and Investments.

The Proposed Action involves development of the natural gas reserves in the Upper Cretaceous Lewis and Mesaverde Formations on variable spacing, ranging from 2 to 8 wells per section (80-acre spacing). The project will involve drilling 54 conventional natural gas wells on federal mineral estate and 4 wells on State of Wyoming mineral estate. Twenty-six wells have already

been drilled in the LRPA and an additional seven wells have been permitted. In addition to drilling the natural gas wells, the project will involve construction of well pads, access roads, pipelines and related production facilities. No coal bed natural gas (CBNG) wells are planned as part of this project.

Access to the area is from Interstate Highway 80 along Sweetwater County Road 4-21 (Bar-X Road). The project area is about 33 miles north of the I-80 Bar-X Exit (Exit 152). Rock Springs is approximately 42 miles west of the Bar-X exit; Rawlins is approximately 60 miles east of the Bar-X exit.

The LRPA contains 19,548.26 federal surface and mineral estate acres and 1,280 State of Wyoming leases, by aliquot description. The actual GIS measured area within the project area is 21, 471.107 acres. There is no private land in the project area. Within the project boundary, the proposed action will involve approximately 879 acres of new short-term surface disturbance (3.6% of the project area) and approximately 226 acres (less than 1.4% of the LRPA) of long-term surface disturbance.

CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLAN

BLM management decisions for lands within the LRPA are contained in the Green River Resource Management Plan (GRRMP). The Record of Decision for the GRRMP was signed August 8, 1997.

As described in the GRRMP, the objective for management of oil and gas in the RSFO is to “provide for leasing, exploration, and development of oil and gas, while protecting other values.” All public lands in the LRPA were considered in the GRRMP and found suitable for oil and gas leasing and development, subject to certain stipulations and appropriate mitigation measures (GRRMP 1997). All the lands in the LRPA have been leased. In accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-3, the Proposed Action has been reviewed and has been found to be in conformance with the GRRMP.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the information contained in the attached environmental assessment, ‘Luman Rim Natural Gas Development Project’, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that: (1) the implementation of the Proposed Action will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the Green River Resource Management Plan (GRRMP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ; (2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the GRRMP; and (3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA or as articulated in the letters of comment.

The Proposed Action has been designed to avoid or minimize environmental impacts to the extent feasible. These design features, such as standard operating procedures, stipulations, best management practices in Appendix F and mitigation measures that Yates and Pinnacle have voluntarily agreed to can be found in Section 4.1.1.1.1 Geology and Minerals, 4.1.2.1.1 Paleontology 4.1.3.1.1 Air Quality, 4.1.4.1.1 Soils, 4.1.5.1.1.1 Water Resources, 4.1.5.2.1.1 Groundwater, 4.1.6.1.1 Vegetation, Special Status Plant Species, Wetlands, Noxious weeds, 4.1.7.1.1 Range Resources and Other Land Uses, 4.1.8.1.1.1 Wildlife/Special Status Species, 4.1.8.1.3.1 Upland Game Birds and Raptors, 4.1.8.1.4.2 Greater Sage-grouse, 4.1.8.1.5.1 Migratory Birds, 1.1.11.1.1 Visual Resources, 4.1.12.1.1 Cultural Resources, 4.1.13.1.1 Socioeconomics, 4.1.14.1.1 Transportation, 4.1.15.1.1 Health and Safety, 4.1.16.1.1 Hazardous Materials and Waste Management, 4.1.17.1.1 Noise of the EA.

Authorized Official:


Lance Porter
Field Manager
Rock Springs Field Office

Dec 16, 2010
Date