

3.8 Facilities and Services

Energy development affects local government facilities and services in several ways. In some cases, such as law enforcement and road maintenance, local governments provide direct services to energy facilities. Local governments also provide facilities and services used by employees and population associated with energy development, and most local governments receive revenues from taxes on energy facilities and production and from taxes on company and employee spending.

The types and levels of facilities and services provided by local governments reflect service demand, revenue availability, and community values regarding appropriate services and service levels. As with most socioeconomic characteristics, the level and availability of local government facilities and services varies by county and community across the PRB.

Although all local government facilities and services are affected by energy development, this assessment focuses on municipal water and sewer systems, law enforcement at the county level, and hospitals. Public education previously was described in Section 3.7.

3.8.1 Campbell County

In Campbell County, the major public facility and service providers include the county, the City of Gillette, and the Town of Wright. In some cases, these entities cooperate to provide facilities and services.

Campbell County – Sheriff's Department

The Campbell County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement, detention, court security, and animal control services for the county. Currently, the department also provides law enforcement services for the Town of Wright, under a contract between the town and the county. For the 2004 fiscal year, the department has budgeted for 60 law enforcement employees, including 43 sworn officers, 56 detention employees (including 38 officers and 18 civilians), 2 animal control officers, and 6 court security employees including 5 sworn officers (Diede 2004). This staffing level is adequate for current demand (Seeman 2004).

Recent improvements have increased the Campbell County detention facility to 128 beds, which includes separate modules for women and juveniles. The facility currently is adequate, although week-end levels sometimes exceed 100 detainees (Seeman 2004).

Substantial increases in population result in corresponding increases in law enforcement demand. To respond to this demand, the Sheriff's Department either must pay overtime or increase staff and equipment. Currently, an entry-level sworn deputy is paid \$36,000 annually, and requires almost that amount in benefits. Each new officer requires a vehicle and equipment, which can cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. It requires several months to recruit and screen new officers, and the training period for entry-level deputies is 6 months, which results in additional expense for the department.

In the case of energy development, the demographics of the work force, which often includes a high percentage of single or single-status, working-age males, results in increased demand for certain

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types of law enforcement services. In the case of large energy construction projects, particularly those that have a work camp, more intensive levels of law enforcement services are required, mainly as a result of the large concentrations of population (Seeman 2004).

Traffic effects of energy development vary with the type of development. Oil and gas development, and, more recently CBNG development, has resulted in increased traffic over wide areas of the county, frequently in remote areas. In order to respond to emergencies and calls for service in a variety of remote areas, the department has had to upgrade mapping capabilities and acquire global positioning systems.

Coal mine and power plant development result in intensified levels of traffic in concentrated areas, on existing highways such as Wyoming State Route 59 south of Gillette, U.S. Highway 14/16 north of Gillette, and on roads that provide access to each facility.

City of Gillette – Water and Wastewater

The City of Gillette provides water and sewer services within the city and in some portions of the Gillette Urban Service Area (GUSA). The sewage treatment system is designed to accommodate about 35,000. The City has scheduled improvements to the treatment facility, which when completed in 2006, will provide treatment capacity for the city's 20-year projected population of 41,000. The 2000 census population for the City of Gillette was 19,646, currently it is estimated that 25,000 people in the city and the GUSA are connected to the sewer system.

The water system has a current capacity of about 25,000 people and reaches that capacity during peak use periods in summer months. The city is encouraging conservation measures and considering changes in the water rate structure to reduce peak period consumption. Gillette is planning either to expand its current well field or develop a Ft. Union well field south of the city and also will need a new transmission line, pump station, and treatment facility for the additional water. If approved, these improvements are anticipated to come on line during the next 3 to 5 years (Schultz 2004).

Town of Wright – Water and Wastewater

The Wright Water and Sewer District provides water and wastewater treatment services in the Town of Wright. The 2000 census listed Wright's population at 1,347. The District's water and sewage systems were designed to serve a population of 3,000. The town has plans to develop an additional 400 gallons per minute well, which would increase the current water supply capacity by about 30 percent. Wright would have to add a new wastewater treatment lagoon at about 2,500 people. All currently available lots in the town are served by water mains, and most are served by sewer mains, except those that have septic systems (Kingan 2004).

3.8.2 Converse County

Converse County – Sheriff's Department

Energy development-related law enforcement issues in Converse County have included slight increases in the numbers of overall incidents (e.g., motor vehicle accidents and traffic citations) and increases in the numbers of individuals incarcerated in the county jail. These increases have been

3.0 Description of Current Social and Economic Conditions

observed in conjunction with increases in the resident population and short-term influxes of workers related to several pipelines and other infrastructure projects. Local law enforcement also experienced language problems associated with increases in the number of contacts or incidents involving individuals with poor English language skills. More recently, the Sheriff's Department has been affected by homeland security concerns related to the mines and railroad operations, which has increased the amount of patrol time for deputies, triggered additional equipment acquisition, and imposed additional training demands. With its current capacity and capabilities, the department is prepared to deal with some additional growth (Pederson 2001b; Steinfeld 2004).

City of Douglas – Water and Wastewater

The City of Douglas had a 2000 census population of 5,288. The city has three different water sources. Little Boxelder Spring is a high-quality gravity-fed water source located some 18-miles west of Douglas. This source provides up to 2 million gallons per day and meets the water demands in the fall and winter. The second source of water for the community is the 1.5 million gallon per day (mmgpd) Sheep Mountain Well. This well came into service in the fall of 1994 and supplements the city water supply during peak demand and also allows for reduced usage of the more costly water treatment plant.

The water treatment plant treats up to 2.5 mmgpd of North Platte River water during the summer and primarily is used during heavy irrigation periods. The facility is not designed to service the community in winter, but can be brought on-line under emergency circumstances.

The city has four water storage facilities: a 3 million gallon tank west of town, a 2 million gallon tank at the cemetery, and a 1 million gallon tank east of town. The current water system is designed to accommodate a population of 10,000 people (Sweeney 2004).

The city's wastewater treatment system is a three-cell complete aerated lagoon, with facilities also provided for chlorination and de-chlorination of the effluent prior to discharge to the North Platte River. The design capacity of the system could serve a population of approximately 15,000. The system includes two sewage pumping stations (City of Douglas 2004).

Town of Glenrock – Water and Wastewater

The Town of Glenrock provides water and wastewater services. Glenrock had a 2000 census population of 2,231. The water system was designed to handle a population of 5,000. The town is working on an expansion of the water system; the addition of a new well and storage facilities would expand the capacity to 7,500 to 8,000 people.

The sewer system was designed to handle a population of 3,000. The town has completed design work for construction of an additional cell on the wastewater treatment lagoon system, which would allow the system to accommodate substantial additional population.

There are a number of infill areas within the city that currently are served by water and sewer mains, as well as some developable areas to the east of the town. The town recently annexed 200 acres between the city and Interstate 25. The developers will be required to fund the extension of sewer and water mains to that land before it can be connected to both systems (Andrews 2004).

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3.8.3 Crook County

Crook County - Sheriff's Department

Energy development affects law enforcement in Crook County in two ways. First, many Campbell County residents recreate in Crook County, at Keyhole reservoir and other locations, which results in law enforcement demand for both traffic and criminal offenses. Second, an increasing number of Campbell County workers have chosen to live in Crook County, many in rural areas of the county such as Pine Haven that previously were sparsely occupied, which results in law enforcement and other service demand in areas where demand was previously low.

Town of Moorcroft - Water and Wastewater

Moorcroft provides water and sewer services for the town, which had a 2000 census population of 807. At present, the water system is at capacity, and the town is purchasing 750,000 gallons per day from the City of Gillette. The town drilled a well in the Madison Formation 2 years ago at a location 8 miles from the town. The town has applied for funds to develop a 16-inch pipeline to connect the well to the town. When funding is secured and the pipeline is constructed, the town will be able to accommodate substantial growth.

The sewer system, constructed in the late 1980s, was designed to accommodate 300 to 400 more people than the town's current population. Sewer and water mains would have to be constructed to connect new subdivisions to both systems (Seehan 2004)

3.8.4 Johnson County

Johnson County - Sheriff's Department

Energy development-related demands on the Johnson County Sheriff's Department are for the most part limited to CBNG development. The oil fields in the southern part of the county are established, and activity is limited to ongoing production activity. Similarly, the low level of activity at Johnson County uranium operations does not generate substantial law enforcement demand. Although there have been a few cases of trespass and conflict between surface owners and CBNG operators, and a few cases of materials theft, for the most part, CBNG activity has resulted in traffic law enforcement demand and motor vehicle accident response. The Sheriff's Department has added several deputies in recent years in response to CBNG activity and general population growth in the county, and has added a routine patrol in areas of the county that are experiencing CBNG development.

The Johnson County jail has capacity for 24 prisoners. The jail population routinely exceeds 24 prisoners, and the county currently is conducting a feasibility study for construction of a new jail facility (Kozisek 2004).

3.0 Description of Current Social and Economic Conditions

City of Buffalo – Water and Wastewater

The City of Buffalo provides water and sewer services to a population of approximately 4,100 people. The water system currently is at capacity. Buffalo is in the process of expanding the water treatment system to handle a population of approximately 8,000. It is anticipated that the expansion will occur over a 4-year period. Portions of the water distribution and storage system also would need to be expanded to accommodate substantial growth, and the city currently is adding additional storage capacity.

The Buffalo sewage treatment facility has a design capacity of 3 mmgpd; current flows are about 1 mmgpd. Therefore, the sewage treatment facility could accommodate at least twice the current population and very likely more. However, the city would need to install a new sewage collection trunk line to the plant in order to accommodate substantially increased volumes.

3.8.5 Sheridan County

Sheridan County - Sheriff's Department

The Sheridan County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services for the unincorporated portion of Sheridan County. The department had 19 sworn officers in the summer of 2004, including the Lieutenant in charge of the jail. The Sheridan County jail was designed to accommodate 50 prisoners but has housed substantially over that number in recent years. The county has received Wyoming State Lands Investment Board funds and currently is building a new two story jail facility. When that facility is completed, the existing jail facility will be remodeled, providing total capacity for 120 prisoners.

Energy development has affected the department by increasing the population in the county, and correspondingly increasing the number of calls for law enforcement services. At present, neither the coal development (within the county or in Wyoming) nor the CBNG development has had a disproportionate effect on the level or type of law enforcement service demand in the county (Hofmeier 2004).

City of Sheridan - Water and Wastewater

The City of Sheridan provides raw water and treated water to consumers within the City's incorporated limits, and to other users within the Sheridan Area Water and Sewer Joint Powers Board service area, the Downer Neighborhood Improvement and Service District, and the Veteran's Administration facilities located northwest of the city. In all, approximately 20,000 people are served by the system. The city has raw water rights on Goose Creek, extensive raw water storage facilities at Twin Lakes Reservoir, and shared ownership of other mountain reservoirs. The city has 12 million gallons of treated water storage capacity in 12 different tanks. The city operates two water treatment plants; the Sheridan plant has a design capacity of 14 mmgpd and the Big Goose plant has a design capacity of 4.5 mmgpd, for a combined total of 18.5 mmgpd. The combined historic peak production for the two plants is 11.2 mmgpd or approximately 60 percent of combined capacity.

Sheridan operates a sewage treatment plant with a design capacity of approximately 4.5 mmgpd. The sewage plant serves users within the city and a limited number of users outside the city, a

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population of approximately 17,000 people in all. Since 1998, the plant has treated an average of 2.2 mmgpd or 49 percent of design capacity, and peak daily flows of 4 mmgpd or about 89 percent of design capacity (Cole 2004).

3.8.6 Weston County

Weston County - Sheriff's Department

The Weston County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services to the county with a staff of seven sworn officers. Because most of the county's oil and gas fields are mature, the associated reduction in activity has little effect on law enforcement services. There are several Weston County service firms that work in the CBNG industry, but CBNG development has not appreciably affected law enforcement service demand. A number of employees of southern Campbell County coal mines reside in Newcastle and Upton; these employees typically commute to and from work on buses, resulting in little transportation impact (Kettley 2004).

City of Newcastle – Water and Wastewater

The City of Newcastle, the Weston County seat, had a 2000 census population of 3,065, down from a peak of 4,345 in 1960. Consequently, most of the city's infrastructure has been sized to accommodate a substantially larger population than currently exists.

For example, Newcastle is completing improvements to the sewer system which will allow it to accommodate between 5,000 and 6,000 residents. The water system also could supply over 5,000 residents (Hartley 2004).

Town of Upton – Water and Wastewater

The 2000 census count for Upton was 872 people, but the town has had some growth and currently is closer to 1,000 residents. The Town of Upton's water system was designed to accommodate a population of 3,000, and the town has adequate water supply and storage capacity for that amount. The town's sewage treatment facility was designed to accommodate between 4,000 and 5,000 people (Lundstrom 2004).