

3.0 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Development

3.10.2 Reasonably Foreseeable Development

Based on the Powder/Tongue River Basin Water Plan (HKM Engineering et al. 2002a) and the Northeast Wyoming River Basins Water Plan (HKM Engineering et al. 2002b) that were prepared for the Wyoming Water Development Commission for its Basin Planning Program, there are long-range projections for development of additional reservoirs in the Wyoming PRB study area. However, none of these reservoirs have reached the planning stage; therefore, their likelihood is currently unknown. As a result, they have been eliminated from further analysis.

3.10.3 Data Sources

Information presented in the Powder/Tongue River Basin Water Plan (HKM Engineering et al. 2002a) and the Northeast Wyoming River Basins Water Plan (HKM Engineering et al. 2002b) was used to develop the reservoirs and other water developments section of this report. These plans were developed for the Wyoming Water Development Commission for their Basin Planning Program.

3.10.4 Assumptions

No assumptions were required for this study to define specific impact-causing parameters for reservoirs and water developments.

3.11 Other Industrial Manufacturing

3.11.1 Past and Present Development

There are a number of existing industrial manufacturing establishments located in the Wyoming PRB study area. Most are relatively small with fewer than 25 employees and predominately serve local and regional markets, the majority of which are directly or indirectly related to energy resource development and production. For example, L&H Welding and Machine based in Gillette and the largest industrial manufacturing firm in the region specializes in repairs, rebuilding, and manufacturing for the mining industry. Other industrial manufacturing establishments in the region provide metal fabrication, metal plating, custom and precast concrete products, and specialized chemical products and services. (Dun & Bradstreet 2003). Over the years, some of these firms have expanded such that they now support activities and serve markets outside the PRB region. However, they remain dependent upon the local and regional markets to sustain their existing operations.

3.11.2 Reasonably Foreseeable Development

It is anticipated that chemical feed stock plants supplying the mining industry with materials such as ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) would be expanded. It is assumed that increased coal production would result in an increased demand for fuels and explosives. This increased demand could result in the need for the development of new off site chemical feed stock plants in the study area. Although CANDO reports that a company is considering this prospect (Werner 2004),

3.0 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Development

project-specific information is not available. As a result, the potential development of new chemical feed stock plants is not considered further in this analysis.

Local economic development organizations, including CCEDC and CANDO are continually engaged in efforts to recruit or assist new business formation in the PRB study area. For example, CANDO is pursuing development of an ammonium nitrate plant (using methane as a feedstock) in the Bill, Wyoming, area, as well as location of an aluminum mill in the same general location. These and similar prospects are long-term potential whose outcomes are uncertain and for which little information and detail are available. As a result, they have been eliminated from analysis in this study.

3.11.3 Data Sources

Information relative to potential major industrial development was obtained from state and local business and economic development organizations.

3.11.4 Assumptions

There are no assumptions relative to other industrial manufacturing.

3.12 Other Development

3.12.1 Past and Present Development

In addition to the specific projects and developments described above, the PRB hosts a vast network of additional public and private physical infrastructure, private businesses, and public activities that has developed over time. Examples of infrastructure include the highway and road networks, airports, government offices, hospitals, public schools, municipal water systems, and extensive residential and commercial real estate development. Private enterprises include local retail and service establishments, newspaper publishing, and transportation and distribution firms.

The construction, maintenance, and continuing operations associated with this network of development represent an extensive series of public and private investments, as well as changes in land use, surface disturbances, water consumption, and the factors that characterize local air quality. Those investments and changes have occurred over a period of time and in response to many different influences.

3.12.2 Reasonably Foreseeable Development

There are numerous current and anticipated plans for future investment in public and private infrastructure in the PRB. Such investments would include state and local investment in transportation, administrative, and educational facilities. A number of planned investments are summarized below. Given the timing, scale, year-to-year variability, relatively short construction timetables associated with such public investments, the existence of a relatively large and diversified construction industry in the region and nearby areas, and the limited potential for these projects to alter long-term conditions in the PRB, they are not included in the RFD database.