

3.0 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Development

3.4.2.2 Montana

There are no known proposed coal technology projects within the Montana PRB study area.

3.4.3 Data Sources

Information on KFx-proposed projects was based on KFx corporate information provided on the company's web site. The information for Rentech Inc. was based on a published news article and information available on their web site. Information regarding the long-term prospects for coal technology development was derived from a 2004 feasibility study and conversations with local economic development officials (City of Douglas 2004; Spencer 2004; Werner 2004).

3.4.4 Assumptions

- The KFx coal beneficiation project would be constructed in 2005 and would operate throughout the period of this study. The initial phase of the project would provide 25 permanent jobs.

3.5 Transmission Lines

3.5.1 Past and Present Development

Major transmission lines in the Wyoming PRB study area that support the regional distribution system are associated with the Dave Johnston power plant located near Glenrock, Wyoming, and the power plants operated by Black Hills Power and Light, which are located east of Gillette (**Figure 3-4**). These 230-kV transmission lines have been in place for several years, and their associated permanent disturbance is minimal. Distribution power lines associated with conventional oil and gas and CBNG development also occur within the study area. For purposes of this study, these power lines have been factored in proportionally on a per well basis as discussed in Appendix B.

3.5.2 Reasonably Foreseeable Development

It is estimated that during the time frame of this study one transmission line would be constructed running south to Colorado markets and one would be constructed eastward to mid-west markets. No specific proposals for RFD transmission line projects have been identified; however, transmission lines are a necessary supporting infrastructure for power generating facilities. As a result, it is assumed that they would be required as part of the overall system development for the RFD power plants identified in Section 3.2.2.1. Markets will dictate the size and location of such facilities, and these are not known as of this time. Based on the lack of information relative to specific RFD transmission lines, they are not analyzed further in this study.

3.0 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Development

3.5.3 Data Sources

Information relative to RFD transmission line projects was based on new power plant project information contained in trade journals and newspaper publications. This information was not explicit relative to supporting infrastructure; however, since power plant and transmission line projects are interrelated, it provided a reasonable basis for the conclusions on RFDs in this section.

3.5.4 Assumptions

No assumptions relative to transmission lines have been identified for this study.

3.6 Other Mines

3.6.1 Past and Present Development

Past and present uranium, sand, gravel, bentonite, clinker, and scoria mines also exist in the Wyoming PRB study area. There are three defined uranium districts in the PRB, including Pumpkin Buttes, Southern Powder River, and Kaycee (BLM 2003a). Numerous uranium mining sites occurred in these districts, but they were mined out or uneconomic. Uranium currently is produced via the in situ leach method in the Southern Powder River district at Smith Ranch and Highland/Morton Ranch (Harris 2003) (**Figure 3-4**).

There are several bentonite localities in the PRB study area, and bentonite is mined at Kaycee (Wyoming Mining Association 2004) (**Figure 3-4**).

The more important aggregate mining localities are in Johnson and Sheridan counties (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] 2003). The largest identified aggregate operation is located in the Lighting Creek subwatershed. It has an associated total disturbance area of approximately 67 acres, of which 4 acres have been reclaimed. The remainder of the identified operations are relatively small (less than 5 acres each) and are scattered throughout Campbell and Converse counties.

Scoria or clinker (which is formed when coal beds burn and the adjacent rocks become baked) is used as aggregate where alluvial gravel or in-place granite/igneous rock is not available. Scoria generally is mined in the Converse and Campbell counties portion of the Wyoming PRB study area.

For purposes of this study, the smaller operations are not considered further in this study due to the lack of information relative to their specific locations and the low overall associated acreage (approximately 100 acres), which per subwatershed would be minimal.

3.6.2 Reasonably Foreseeable Development

Increased sand, gravel, and scoria production and associated surface disturbance are anticipated in the Wyoming PRB study area in the future. The likelihood of increased production of these materials is high, as aggregate would be required for road maintenance and new construction