



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT 1793/Modified
Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2986
Cooper Reservoir
Natural Gas Development
Project

FEB 02 2004

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Bill Barrett Corporation's Modified Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Development Project. The project area is located in Natrona County approximately 50 miles west of Casper, Wyoming, and is situated southwest of Waltman, Wyoming.

To satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, this EA was prepared to analyze potential impacts associated with a modification to an EA prepared for the Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Development Project and approved in the June 1998 Decision Record (DR) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

A copy of this EA has been sent to affected government agencies and those who either participated in the 1998 EA or have subsequently expressed an interest in the modified project. The technical reports and other supporting material referenced in the EA are available for review at the above address.

Over the next 5 to 10 years, Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC) proposes to drill up to 92 additional natural gas wells from 42 additional well pads to obtain maximum recovery of natural gas from existing Federal, State, and private oil and gas leases in the project area. This activity would be in addition to 49 existing well locations (not including abandoned wells) which have been previously approved and subsequently drilled within the project area. Thirty-eight of the 49 wells were drilled subsequent to the 1998 DR/FONSI.

Additional roads would be required to provide for vehicle access and new pipelines would be necessary to link the wells with existing transportation pipelines. Expansion of the existing natural gas compression facility is also proposed.

The 30-day comment period ends on March 2, 2004. You may submit written comments to Linda Slone, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604-2986. You may also submit electronic comments to casper_wymail@blm.gov. Please refer to the Modified Cooper Reservoir Project in your comments.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review in their entirety at the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All

submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

This EA is not the decision document. A decision record detailing the Bureau of Land Management's decision will be prepared and distributed following the end of the 30-day comment period. The decision on the proposed modified project will be based upon the analysis in the EA and on public comments. The decision is anticipated to be issued on March 3, 2004.

We appreciate the individuals, organizations, Federal, State, and local governments who participated in this environmental process. Should you have any questions, please contact Linda Slone at the above address or by phone at (307) 261-7520.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. ...". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end. It is positioned above the typed name "Field Manager, Casper".

Field Manager, Casper