

ATTACHMENT 2:

**COMMENT LETTERS THAT
SPECIFICALLY REFERENCE
THE WEST ANTELOPE LBA TRACT
(WYW151643)
AND BLM RESPONSES**

MAXIM DRILLING AND EXPLORATION, INC.

RECEIVED - BLM

JAN 23 2004

CASPER FIELD OFFICE

P.O. Box 3947

GILLETTE, WY 82717

307-682-2506

FAX 307-686-6300

January 19, 2004

BLM
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604
Attn: Nancy Doelger

Dear Mrs. Doelger;

Maxim Drilling and Exploration, Inc. (Maxim) currently owns and operates the following wells in Converse County, WY. All wells are completed in the Muddy and/or the Dakota formation.

Pelican Federal #1	T40N, R72W, Section 01: SENW
Fulmar Federal #1	T40N, R72W, Section 02: SENW
Wuthier Stevic #1	T41N, R72W, Section 35: SWNE
Concamp State #1	T41N, R72W, Section 36: SWNE
Concamp State #2	T41N, R72W, Section 36: SWSW

These wells are currently selling gas through a gathering pipeline owned by Kinder Morgan, Inc. (KM). According to the map provided in the South Powder River Basin EIS (p.3-87), this pipeline passes through the proposed West Antelope LBA tract beginning in Section 31 of T41N, R71W and ending in Section 22 of T41N, R71W (Campbell, Co.). KM's low pressure line is the only gathering facility serving this area. Without this gathering line, these five gas wells will not be able to be produced.

In order to avoid a disruption of our gas gathering services, we request that the lessee of the West Antelope LBA commit to provide an alternate means by which the gas from these wells can be sold.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


John C. Corkery, President
Maxim Drilling and Exploration, Inc



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968

3425(LBA)
WYW150318
(Little Thunder)
WYW151643
(West Antelope)

MAY 12 2004

Maxim Drilling and Exploration, Inc.
Attn: John Corkery
P.O. Box 3947
Gillette, WY 82717-3947

RE: January 19, 2004 Comment Letters on the Applications to Lease Federal Coal
in the Little Thunder and West Antelope Lease By Application (LBA) Tracts
[Evaluated in the Final South Powder River Basin Coal Environmental Impact
Statement (EIS)]

John
Dear ~~Mr. Corkery~~:

We have reviewed the comments you provided relative to the gas gathering pipeline owned by Kinder Morgan, Inc. (KM), which services several wells owned and operated by Maxim Drilling and Exploration, Inc. and crosses two tracts of federal coal [the Little Thunder LBA Tract (WYW150318) and the West Antelope LBA Tract (WYW151643)] that BLM is considering offering for lease. BLM received applications to lease the federal coal in these tracts from existing coal mines adjacent to the tracts (the Black Thunder Mine and the Antelope Mine, respectively). The EIS does identify the presence of the oil and gas pipelines on the LBA Tracts (Section 3.17, Figures 3-21 and 3-23) and indicate that relocation of pipelines and utility lines would be handled in accordance with specific agreements between coal lessees and pipeline utility owners if the need arises (page 4-86). Arrangements to relocate these facilities must take place before the federal coal can be removed.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your concerns further, please contact Nancy Doelger at (307) 261-7627.

Sincerely,

Assistant Field Manager, Solid Minerals