SCOPING NOTICE
PROPOSED JONAH INFILL DRILLING PROJECT

Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office

EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., BP America, and other natural gas operators (collectively known as the Operators) have notified the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Pinedale Field Office, that they propose an expansion (infill drilling) to their drilling program as approved in the June 2000 Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Modified Jonah II Field Natural Gas Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and the April 1998 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Jonah Field II Natural Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the BLM will be preparing an EIS for the proposed project expansion.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT EXPANSION

Based on collective data acquired from existing wells in the Jonah Infill Drilling Project Area (JIDPA [formerly known as the Modified Jonah II Project Area]) (see Attachment 1, Map), Operators propose to modify their approved operations to include drilling, completion, and operation of an additional 1,250 wells on existing and a maximum of 850 new well locations to recover the remaining natural gas present in the area which otherwise would be unrecovered. While subsurface well densities may occur at a spacing of one well every 10 acres, no more than 40 surface locations would occur in any 640-acre section. Approximately 400 wells would be directionally drilled from existing or new well locations (i.e., multiple wells drilled from a single well location) primarily to avoid surface disturbance in sensitive resource areas (e.g., raptor nesting areas, sage grouse lek areas). The Operators' proposed expansion is designed to maximize recovery of natural gas resources in the area, and has been identified as geologically appropriate by the BLM Reservoir Management Group and the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

The existing EA and EIS indicate that disturbance from a total of 497 well locations with associated roads and adjacent gathering pipelines (206 miles), sales pipelines (22 miles), and ancillary facilities (compressor stations, storage yards, office, water disposal site, sand pit) would be 4,225 acres initially and 1,481 acres for the life-of-project (LOP) (i.e., approximately 8.5 acres/location initially and 3.0 acres/location for the LOP). Using these disturbance area requirements as conservative estimates for the proposed expansion, the maximum new disturbance estimate would be 7,225 acres, and the maximum new LOP disturbance area would be 2,550 acres. Therefore, the total maximum cumulative surface disturbance estimate for the entire project would be 11,450 acres and the total cumulative LOP disturbance would be 4,031 acres.

APPROVED ACTIONS/*NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT* COMPLIANCE

The Decision Record for the Modified Jonah Field II EA approved drilling, completion, testing, production, and reclamation of 497 natural gas well locations at a maximum of 16 wells/well locations per section with associated field access and resource roads, gathering system and sales pipelines, water wells, and compressor stations. An additional 850 well locations (1,250 total wells) with associated access roads and pipelines, and five new water wells are anticipated under the expanded development scenario.

LOCATION

The JIDPA is located in south-central Sublette County, Wyoming, approximately 32 miles southeast of Pinedale and 28 miles northwest of Farson on approximately 30,200 acres in T28N and T29N, R107W through R109W (see Attachment 1). Access to the area is from U.S. Highway 191, located 1.5 to 11 miles east of the JIDPA.

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The following provides a preliminary list of land and resource management issues and concerns associated with the expanded development proposal.

- *National Environmental Policy Act* Compliance (Resource Management Plan compliance considering current revision actions; cooperating agency establishment; analysis of a range of appropriate alternatives; cumulative impact analysis; consideration of appropriate mitigation measures).
- Development Activities (maximization of natural resource recovery; use of best management practices; water and other material disposal; rate of development; minimization of surface disturbance; pipeline capacity and corridor planning; consideration of directional drilling and/or centralized processing; protection of public health and safety).
- Wildlife and Fisheries (analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts; displacement and habitat fragmentation; impacts on big game (including pronghorn migration), raptors, greater sage-grouse; BLM-sensitive, state priority, special status, and federally-listed species; consideration of the *Wyoming Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan*; analysis of all existing wildlife data; noise impacts).
- Vegetation (noxious weed control; potential impacts to and protection of wetlands and riparian areas; reclamation; habitat improvements).
- Surface Water and Ground Water (impacts to and protection of surface water and ground water; protection of aquatic habitats, wetlands, and waters of the U.S.; ground water development for wildlife and livestock use; potential groundwater contamination).
- Socioeconomics (social, economic, and infrastructure effects from increased work forces; impacts of development on community infrastructures; provision of

jobs, increased income, investments, federal and state royalties, and county ad valorem taxes; hiring preference for local residents).

- Land Use (land use alterations; compatibility of development with existing land uses; loss of open space recreation).
- Livestock Grazing (disruption of livestock operations; loss of forage; availability [short term] and increased forage availability [long term]; potential increased livestock productivity from increased water availability).
- Cultural Resources (potential impacts on cultural/historic resources including historic trails, and adherence to *National Historic Preservation Act* and Advisory Council rules and regulations; use of cultural resources programmatic agreement).
- Transportation (road development, transportation management, and provision of a clearly defined transportation system; minimization of additional roads/road length; adequate road maintenance through utilization of required road use and maintenance agreements).
- Air Quality (impact assessment protocol; air quality impacts and conformance with the *Clean Air Act*; impacts to air quality, lake acidification, and visibility at wilderness areas; fugitive dust).
- Hazardous Materials (hazardous material use, production, transport, storage, and disposal).
- Geology/Soils (highly erodible and unstable soils and associated erosion).
- Visual Resources (visual resource sensitivity and reduced visual quality).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A scoping meeting on the project proposal will be held on April 17, 2003, at the Sublette County Library (155 S. Tyler, Pinedale, Wyoming) from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The purpose of the scoping meeting will be to answer questions regarding the expanded development proposal and the associated *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) analysis process.

If you believe there are additional issues or concerns that require analysis, or would like to comment on this proposal, please submit your comments to:

Eldon Allison, Project Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, WY 82901

Comments must be received by May 12, 2003. Furthermore, if you wish to receive additional NEPA documentation for the project please return the attached postcard.

This notice has been sent to those individuals, industries, organizations, media, and federal, state, and local government entities who participated in the original NEPA processes.