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CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

An environmental analysis is prepared when a federal government agency considers approving an action within its jurisdiction that may impact the human environment. An environmental analysis aids federal decision makers by presenting information on the physical, biological, and social environment of a proposed project and its alternatives. The first step in conducting an environmental analysis that meets the requirements of NEPA is to determine the scope of the project, the range of action alternatives, and the impacts to be included in the document.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508) require an early scoping process to determine the issues related to the Proposed Action and alternatives that the analysis should address. The purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues, concerns, and potential impacts that require analysis. The results of the scoping process are used to focus the analysis on the issues and concerns identified for the proposed project, so that alternatives or mitigation considered can be responsive to the issues and concerns. Alternatives that are not technically or economically feasible or responsive to the issues and concerns are not considered further in the analysis.

The environmental assessment documenting the NEPA analysis conducted for the Blue Sky Project was prepared by a third party contractor working under the direction of and in cooperation with the lead agency for the project, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office, Rawlins, Wyoming.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A scoping notice was prepared and submitted to the public by the BLM on June 14, 2001, requesting comments on the proposed Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project. Scoping documents were sent out to the public listed on the BLM mailing list, as well as organizations, groups, and individuals requesting a copy of the scoping document.

As a part of the scoping process, the interim drilling programs proposed by Pedco and other operators were included in the scoping notice. The scoping period ended on July 25, 2001. During preparation of the EA, the BLM and the consultant interdisciplinary team have communicated with, and received or solicited input from various federal, state, county, and local agencies, elected representatives, environmental and citizens groups, industries, and individuals potentially concerned with issues regarding the proposed exploratory drilling activities. The contacts made are summarized in the following sections.

The following organizations/individuals either provided comment or were provided the opportunity to comment during the scoping period.

FEDERAL OFFICES

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office
U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas
U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

STATE AGENCIES

Governor Jim Geringer
State Representatives
State Senators
State Engineer's Office
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Wyoming Department of Transportation
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
Wyoming State Planning Coordinator

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Carbon County Commissioners
Carbon County Planning Commission

MUNICIPALITIES

Mayor-Baggs
Mayor-Rawlins
Mayor-Wamsutter

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Northern Arapahoe Tribal Council
Shoshone Tribal Council
Ute Mountain Tribe
Ute Tribal Council
Shoshone-Arapahoe Joint Tribal Council
Uinta-Ouray Tribal Council

GRAZING PERMITTEES

Weber Ranch
Montgomery Livestock Company
Salisbury Livestock Company
Stratton Sheep Company
Three Forks Ranch Corporation
Sam Morgan
Mike Sheehan
Robert Orchard
H.B. Lee
Matt Weber
Espy Livestock
Jack Creek Land and Cattle Company
PH Livestock Company

LEASE AND ROW HOLDERS

Benson–Montin-Greer
KCS Mountain Resources, Inc.
Merit Energy Company
North Finn, LLC
P&M Petroleum Management
Stone & Wolf, LLC

LANDOWNERS

This scoping notice has been sent to 111 landowners potentially affected by the proposal.

LOCAL MEDIA

Casper Star-Tribune
Rawlins Daily Times
Rock Springs Rocket Miner
Wyoming State Journal
Wyoming State Tribune/Eagle
Gillette News-Record
Northwest Colorado Daily News
KRAI - Craig, Colorado
KRAL - Rawlins
KRKK - Rock Springs
KSIT - Rock Springs
KTWO - Casper
KTWO TV - Casper
KUWR - University of Wyoming

OTHER AGENCIES, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, INDIVIDUALS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
Wilderness Society
Carbon County Stockgrowers
The Nature Conservancy
Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Field Museum of Natural History, Department of Geology
Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States
Montana Oil Journal
Murie Audubon Society
Petroleum Association of Wyoming
Sierra Club
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Public Lands Council
Wyoming Stockgrowers Association
Wyoming Wildlife Federation
Wyoming Woolgrowers Association
Vern Brodsho
Ivan Herold
Little Snake River Conservation District

LIST OF PREPARERS

The following tables identify the core BLM IDT (**Table 5-1**) and the consultant IDT (**Table 5-2**) that were principally involved in preparing this EA.

Table 5-1 BLM Interdisciplinary Reviewers	
Name	Responsibility
BLM Team	
Brenda Vosika-Neuman	BLM IDT Lead
John Spehar	Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Mary Apple	Public Affairs
Krystal Clair	Visual Resources/Recreation
Sarah Crump	Cultural Resources
Kip Purington	Petroleum Engineer
Andy Warren	Vegetation/Range Issues
Mark Newman	Paleontology/Geology
Susan Foley	Soils/Pipeline Construction/Reclamation
John Ahlbrandt	Natural Resource Specialist
Frank Blomquist	Wildlife/T & E Issues
Mike Bower	Fisheries Biologist; Riparian/Wetland
Janelle Wrigley	Realty Specialist
Wyoming State Office	
Susan Caplan	Air Quality

Table 5-2 Consultant Interdisciplinary Team EA Preparers		
Name	Affiliation	Area of Expertise and Responsibility
Principal Interdisciplinary Team		
Kathy Wilkerson	Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Project Manager, Mineral and Energy Resource Specialist
Kyle Davenport	Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Environmental Scientist
Lee Fyock	Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Natural Resource Specialist
Dave Cameron	Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc.	NEPA Specialist, Wildlife Biologist
Technical Support Team		
Larry Hayden-Wing	Hayden-Wing Associates	Wildlife/Fisheries/Special Status Species
Travis Olson	Hayden-Wing Associates	Wildlife Biologist
Jeffrey Winstead	Hayden-Wing Associates	Wildlife Biologist & Cartographer
Scott Mullner	Hayden-Wing Associates	Fisheries Biologist
Carrie Womack	Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Document Editing & Production
Julie Hatcher	Pronghorn Archaeology	Cultural Resources
Gary Holsan	Gary Holsan & Associates	Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project - ongoing environmental analysis for EIS