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SWEETWATER

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80 WEST FLAMING GORGE WAY, SUITE 109 -
 GREEN RIVER, WY 82935
 PH: (307) 872-3890 - FAX - (307) 872-3992

Thursday, May 05, 2011

Kellie Roadifer, Project Manager
 NPL Natural Gas Development Project
 BLM Pinedale Field Office
 1625 West Pine Street
 P.O. Box 768
 Pinedale, WY 82941

RE: Sweetwater County's scoping comments regarding the Normally Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project

Dear Ms Roadifer:

The Sweetwater County Board of County Commissioners (Board), would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Normally Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project (NPL Project) and to strongly support Encana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc. (Encana) in the development of this project.

Currently Encana and other oil field development companies operating within the Jonah field support over 100 oil and gas field service companies within Sweetwater and Sublette Counties. These service companies employ approximately 5,000 employees and generate millions of dollars of revenue for these Counties and the State of Wyoming. The survival, of these service companies and the employment they provide, depends on continued oil and gas exploration provided by actively operating oil and gas rigs within the Jonah Field.

With the projected decline of drilling in the Jonah Field, to almost a non-existent level by 2015, there is a great risk that the Jonah Field oil and gas rigs will soon begin leaving Southwest Wyoming and the State. If this happens, the jobs and revenues supported by these rigs will be lost creating economic hardship for Sweetwater County, the Southwest Wyoming region and Wyoming.

To prevent this economic loss, it is critical that the BLM expedite its Environmental Impact Statement so that a Record of Decision can be issued in a timely manner. Once this Record of Decision is issued, the NPL Project Area will be scheduled to become the base of operations for those oil and gas rigs projected to leave the Jonah Field. This will enhance and maintain the significant portion of the economic base of Sweetwater County (Please see attached graphic.).

Again, Sweetwater County would like to thank the BLM for the opportunity to comment on the NPL Project and to express importance of the BLM expediting the issuance of a Record of Decision. In support of expediting the BLM's environment review, we have attached an appendix that lists of other



Sweetwater County issues and concerns that the Board encourages the BLM consider in their review of the NPL Project.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, the attached appendix or the Board's support for the NPL Project, please contact me or (307) 872-3897. You may also contact, Mark Kot, Supervisor of Community Development, at 307-872-3917.

Sincerely,



Wally J. Johnson, Chairman
Sweetwater County Board of County Commissioners

Attachment: "Appendix of County Issues Related to the NPL Project – Date May 9, 2011"
Sweetwater County Production Value – (Values for Sweetwater County only 2008-10)



“Appendix”- Summary County Issues Related to the NPL Project – Date May 9, 2011”

The purpose of this “Appendix” is to provide the BLM a summary of issues, besides the economic issue addressed in the attached letter, which are important to Sweetwater County in the development of the NPL Project.

Sweetwater County Comprehensive Plan Goals: Sweetwater County believes the NPL Project can be accomplished in manner that balances resource development with environmental protection. The Sweetwater County Comprehensive Plan - 2002 goals that support this balance call for the County to:

- Encourage and support environmentally responsible resource exploration/development with the region.
- “Encourage/support proactive County participation in relevant public land and resource planning and decision-making processes”;
- “Encourage a balance between resource development and environmental protection.”
- “Evaluate natural Resource development proposals (and the associated land uses) for their effects on air, water and environmental quality.”
- “Encourage industrial development near available facilities, services and resources.”

It is in this spirit that Sweetwater County offers the following comments regarding the proposed NPL Project:

Protection of Natural Features and Resources: The Sweetwater County Comprehensive Plan - 2002 calls for Sweetwater County to: “Recognize and protect the County’s unique cultural, recreational, environmental and historic resources” and “Consider the region’s limited water resources as a part of County land use and development decisions” With these goals in mind, Sweetwater County supports Encana’s commitment to natural resource protection, as stated in Encana’s public participation materials, especially in the following resource areas: Air Quality, Wildlife Protection, Groundwater protection, Surface disturbance and reclamation.

In addition to the above, since the Sublette Cut-Off of the Oregon Trail is located along the northern boundary of Sweetwater County near the NPL Project area Sweetwater County encourages special care when developing in close proximity to this historic trail.

Sweetwater County Roads: If any Sweetwater County Roads are utilized to access this project, Sweetwater County requests that the project proponent obtain all required Sweetwater County road right-of-way access permits or road crossing licenses from Sweetwater County’s Engineering Department prior to the utilization of a County R.O.W.

To ensure that public roads, cattle guards and bridges are maintained in a safe condition and are not damaged by heavy construction traffic, the Sweetwater County Engineering Department requests that before contractors move heavy equipment over County roads they contact the County Engineer, Mr. John Radosevich, at (307) 872-3921.

Sweetwater County Construction/Use Permits: Even though this project is proposed to be located in Sweetwater County, in the event that there are accessory or associated facilities are planned to be located in Sweetwater County, please be aware that Sweetwater County Construction/Use Permits are required for development with the County. Temporary or short term facilities such as temporary construction storage yards, staging areas and man-camps will require Sweetwater County Conditional Use Permits For



more information on Construction/Use Permits or Zoning permits, please contact John Barton, Sweetwater County Land Use Planner at 307-872-3915.

Work Camps: The Sweetwater County Comprehensive Plan - 2002 encourages "... the location of associated worker housing within existing communities where services are/can be provided." If a compelling need can be demonstrated, a work camp may be permitted through the Sweetwater County Conditional Use Permit Process. This permitting process takes 60 to 90 days to complete. For more information on Sweetwater County Conditional Use Permits for work camps, please contact John Barton, Sweetwater County Land Use Planner at 307-872-3915.

Intergovernmental Cooperation: Sweetwater County Comprehensive Plan - 2002 encourages cooperative interaction between local, State and Federal agencies. With this goal in mind, Sweetwater County encourages Encana to continue their proactive efforts to educate and solicit comments from all potentially affected communities, especially the unincorporated communities Sweetwater County of Eden and Faison, and the incorporated communities of Green River, Rock Springs, Granger and Superior. Community concerns that should be considered include: housing, school capacity, traffic patterns (especially for heavy equipment and supplies being transported through communities), law enforcement, health service and other public services.

