

drill and develop approximately 3,000 well locations (1,500 on Federal lands and 1,500 on private lands) and associated facilities (i.e., pipelines, roads, production facilities, etc.) in the CD/WIIPA beginning in 1998 and continuing for the next 10–20 years. Well spacing patterns on the area would vary from 640 to 80 acres per well (i.e., 1 to 8 wells per section). This area presently contains several active natural gas fields, some with ongoing drilling programs. There are approximately 720 producing or permitted well locations in the area. The proposed action may be modified as a result of comments received during scoping or anytime during the preparation of the draft EIS. Affected Federal lands are administered by the BLM Rock Springs and Rawlins District Offices. The EIS will be prepared for the BLM by a third party contractor.

DATES: Comments on the scoping process will be accepted through June 30, 1997. Public meetings to discuss the proposed project are scheduled for 7 p.m., June 18, 1997, at the Community Room of the Sweetwater County Court House, 80 West Flaming Gorge Way in Green River, Wyoming, and on June 19, 1997, at the Jeffrey Memorial Community Center located on the corner of Third and Spruce Streets in Rawlins, Wyoming.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management, J. Clare Miller, Team Leader, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bureau of Land Management, J. Clare Miller, Team Leader, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301, phone (307) 328–4245.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

CONSIDERATIONS: Public comments submitted for this scoping review, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review 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 written comment. 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This amended Notice of Intent combines two adjoining proposed natural gas development projects, the Continental Divide Natural Gas Project and the Greater Wamsutter II Natural Gas Project. Scoping for the Continental Divide Natural Gas Project was conducted in March and April 1995. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was being prepared but has not been released to the public. Scoping for the Greater Wamsutter II Project was conducted in December 1993. The draft and final EIS's were released in 1995 and a Record of Decision (ROD) was issued in November 1995. Development within the Greater Wamsutter II Area is rapidly approaching the levels analyzed in the EIS for that project. Initially, the EIS analyzed a maximum of 750 wells on 300 well locations. Since directional drilling has proved to be technically impractical or uneconomical in many areas, additional well locations beyond those analyzed in the Greater Wamsutter II EIS may be required. The expanded development within the Greater Wamsutter II Area would require additional environmental analysis, above and beyond that provided in the original EIS.

BLM will prepare a combined EIS for the Continental Divide project and the expanded Greater Wamsutter II project. BLM is conducting additional scoping to obtain public comment on the combined proposal.

This EIS will address cumulative impacts of this project and other ongoing oil and gas projects, addressed in the recently completed EISs for the Mulligan Draw Gas Project, the Creston/Blue Gap Natural Gas Project, the Greater Wamsutter II Natural Gas Project, and the proposed South Baggs Unit Natural Gas Project. Potential issues to be addressed in the EIS include, but are not limited to: Impacts to wildlife populations and their habitat, access road development and transportation management, surface and ground water resources, noxious weed control, reclamation, conflicts with livestock grazing operations, protection of cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, impacts to air quality, impacts to recreation, impacts to private residences, and cumulative impacts.

Dated: May 27, 1997.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director, Wyoming.

[FR Doc. 97–14259 Filed 5–30–97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT–060–07–1310–00]

Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the Price Coalbed Methane Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the Price Coalbed Methane Project.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) have been prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Moab District Office.

The EIS was prepared under third party contract to analyze impacts of alternatives for River Gas Corporation's Price Coalbed Methane Project near Price, Utah.

The ROD documents the decision approving development of the Price Coalbed Methane Project as submitted by River Gas Corporation (RGC) to the Bureau of Land Management. RGC notified the Bureau of Land Management of the company's intent to develop a coalbed methane gas production field on private, State and Federal lands in an area adjacent to the City of Price, Utah. The approved project would involve the construction, drilling, completion, and stimulation of approximately 545 CBM gas wells and associated access roads, pipelines, and electrical distribution lines over approximately a 10-year plus period within an area of approximately 290-square miles. There are other lessees within the 290 square mile Project Area that could potentially develop an additional 429 CBM wells and associated facilities.

Environmental impacts from RGC proposed project were considered and analyzed in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), prepared and released for public review and comment in October 1996. Based on comments received on the DEIS, modifications and revisions were made, and the Final EIS and ROD released concurrently for review on May 30, 1997 as allowed by 40 CFR 1506.10(b)(2) for agencies that have a formally established appeal process.

Copies of the Final EIS and ROD can be obtained from the Moab District Office at 82 East Dogwood Avenue, Moab, Utah, or by calling (801) 259–

6111 and requesting a copy of the document. Additionally, a copy of the ROD will be mailed to individuals, agencies or companies that commented during the scoping process, or on the Draft EIS.

DATES: Parties adversely affected by the Record of Decision have until July 2, 1997, to file a Notice of Appeal in the office which issued this decision (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.4413). The decision to allow RGC to develop its oil and gas leases and other related facilities is in full force and effect, effective on the date of this publication of the Notice of Availability. A petition for a stay of the decision must be filed in accordance with the above cited regulations.

ADDRESSES: A notice of Appeal should be addressed to: Bill Lamb, Utah State Director, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 45155, 324 South State Street, Room 301, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daryl Trotter, Project Coordinator, Moab District Office, Bureau of Land Management, 82 East Dogwood Avenue, Moab, Utah 84532, (801) 259-6111.

May 20, 1997.

Katherine Kitchell,

Moab District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the County of Kern, State of California have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Soledad Mountain Project, a proposed gold mining operation on public and private lands in Kern County, California.

DATES: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement must be postmarked no later than July 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Resource Area, 300 S. Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, California 93555, Attention: Ahmed Mohsen, EIS Coordinator.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ahmed Mohsen-EIS Coordinator (760) 385-5421.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Public meetings are planned for:

Date: Tues. June 24, 1997.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Halsey Auditorium, Rosamond Elementary School, 1981 Rosamond Boulevard, Rosamond, California.

Date: Wed. June 25, 1997.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Mojave Elementary School Auditorium, Mojave Elementary School, 15800 "O" Street, Mojave, California.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The purpose of the Draft EIR/EIS is to present BLM and Kern County's comparative analysis of the impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives on the physical, biological, social and economic resources of the area. The Proposed Action is a mining proposal to extract minerals from the subsurface, process the ore using chemical leaching methods and place the waste rock adjacent to the processing and mining areas. Alternatives to the Proposed Action include variations on the duration and placement of waste rock. After careful consideration of the impacts of the Proposed Action and all the alternatives, BLM has identified a Preferred Action in response to regulatory requirements, issues raised, resources present, impact analysis results and the effectiveness of mitigation and reclamation measures.

A public scoping process was initiated by the BLM and Kern County to identify issues and concerns relating to the proposed mining operation and assist the lead agencies in formulating alternatives to the Proposed Action. The scoping process was designed to provide an opportunity for receipt of verbal and written comments from the public organizations and government agencies. This was achieved through two public meetings, newspaper publications, **Federal Register** notice and notice of preparation of an EIR/EIS, Project description, resource inventories and public meeting proceedings were made available on the world wide web. Site can be reached with the following address: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/GoldenQueen>.

The project area includes approximately 1,690 acres of which 1,219 acres are privately owned land and 471 acres are unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by the BLM. The proposed surface disturbance is 930 acres of which 735 acres are on private land and 195 acres are on public land.

Five alternatives to the Proposed Action are analyzed in detail: (1) No Action, (2) Increased Mining and Processing Rate, (3) Decreased Mining and Processing Rate, (4) Reduced Project Size, and (5) Partial Backfilling.

Lee Delaney,

Area Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-97-1020-00-24-1 A]

Sierra Front/Northwest Great Basin Resource Advisory Council; Notice of Meeting Locations and Times

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Resource advisory council meeting locations and times.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA) the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Council meetings will be held as indicated below. The agenda includes a short business meeting, public comment period, and a two-day field trip.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have a time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the council meeting is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment, and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meetings, or need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Ron Wenker, Winnemucca District Manager, or Bud Cribbley, Assistant District Manager for Non-Renewable Resources, BLM-Winnemucca District, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445 (702) 623-1500.

DATES, TIMES: Dates are June 26 and 27, 1997. The council will meet at Bruno's Restaurant in Gerlach, Nevada at 9:00 a.m. on June 26, and will depart for the field trip at 9:30 a.m. Destinations include: Spring Island, Trego Springs, Black Rock Hot Spring, Double Hot Springs. A short business meeting, approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting and public comment period will be at the luncheon stop at 12:30 at