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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

[UT080-1310-00]

### Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Resource Development Group Uinta Basin Natural Gas Project, Uintah County, UT

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Resource Development Group Uinta Basin Natural Gas Project. The DEIS analyzes and discloses to the public direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of a proposed natural gas development on 79,800 acres in the Atchees Wash oil and gas production region. The proponent proposes to drill up to 423 gas production wells, accessed by approximately 126 miles of new roads. Three additional alternatives to the proposed action are also analyzed.

**DATES:** Written comments on the Resource Development Group Uinta Basin Natural Gas Project DEIS will be accepted for 45 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes this Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Future public meetings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, the BLM Vernal Field Office Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/utah/vernal> and/or mailings.

The BLM asks that those submitting comments on the DEIS make them as specific as possible with references to page numbers and chapters of the document. Comments that contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response, but will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision-making process.

**ADDRESSES:** Please address questions, comments or concerns to the Vernal Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Jean Nitschke-Sinclear 170 South, 500 East, Vernal,

UT 84078, fax them to 435-781-4410, or send e-mail comments to the attention of Jean Nitschke-Sinclear at [jean\\_nitschke-sinclear@blm.gov](mailto:jean_nitschke-sinclear@blm.gov). A copy of the DEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies; and persons and entities who indicated to the BLM that they wished to receive a copy of the DEIS.

Copies of the Resource Development Group Uinta Basin Natural Gas Project DEIS are available at the BLM Vernal Field Office at the address above. The DEIS may also be viewed and downloaded in PDF format at the BLM Vernal Field Office Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/utah/vernal>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jean Nitschke-Sinclear at BLM's Vernal Field Office listed above or telephone (435-781-4400).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Written comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Vernal Field Office during normal business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Responses to the comments will be published as part of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Individuals may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The DEIS analyzes proposed natural gas development in 79,800 acres in the Atchees Wash oil and gas production region, approximately 50 miles south of Vernal in Townships 11 and 12 South; Ranges 23 and 24 E., SLBM. The proposed project is located primarily on BLM-administered lands (69,560 acres) and includes 9,080 acres of State administered lands and 1,160 acres of private lands. Sixty-four wells and 139 miles of roads exist within the project area. The proponent anticipates drilling up to 423 additional wells at a rate of 14 to 40 a year, accessed by approximately 126 miles of new roads. The wells would be drilled on a spacing pattern based on geology and reservoir qualities. Some areas could be developed on a 40-acre pattern while others could be drilled on patterns of 160 acres or larger. The Wasatch Formation (average depth of 2,000-4,000 feet) and Mesa Verde Formation (average depth of 4,000-6,000 feet) are the primary producing horizons in this region. Unpainted steel gas gathering

lines would be laid on the surface and integrated into the existing gas pipeline gathering and transmission network. One new compressor station is anticipated.

The Notice of Intent for preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Resource Development Group Uinta Basin Natural Gas Project was published in the **Federal Register** on October 22, 1999. Public participation was sought through scoping, public meetings and stakeholder meetings conducted with interested agencies and organizations. Specifically, BLM conducted a public scoping and informational open house in Vernal, Utah on November 18, 1999; and stakeholders meetings on February 14-17, 2000. Through the scoping process several issues were identified and are addressed in the DEIS. The BLM has developed three alternatives in addition to the proposed action for analysis in the DEIS. The alternatives range from continuation of current management (No Action) to different combinations of environmental protection and development.

Dated: June 6, 2003.

Sally Wisely,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 03-19691 Filed 8-7-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-952-03-1420-BJ]

### Filing of Plats of Survey; Nevada

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to inform the public and interested State and local government officials of the filing of Plats of Survey in Nevada.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Filing is effective at 10 a.m. on the dates indicated below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert M. Scruggs, Chief, Branch of Geographic Sciences, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., PO Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520, 775-861-6541.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The Supplemental Plat of the following described lands was officially filed at the Nevada State Office, Reno, Nevada, on April 11, 2003:

The supplemental plat, showing amended lottings in the N1/2 of section 6, Township 22 South, Range 60 East,

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, was accepted April 11, 2003.

This supplemental plat was prepared to meet certain administrative needs of the Bureau of Land Management and the Hughes Corporation.

2. The Plats of Survey of the following described lands were officially filed at the Nevada State Office, Reno, Nevada, on April 14, 2003:

The plat, in four sheets, representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the east boundary, a portion of the subdivisional lines and a portion of the subdivision-of-section lines of sections 25 and 36, and the further subdivision of sections 25 and 36, and metes-and-bounds surveys in sections 25, 26 and 36, Township 21 South, Range 59 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, under Group No. 810, was accepted April 14, 2003.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the west boundary, a portion of the subdivisional lines and a portion of the subdivision-of-section lines of section 6, and a metes-and-bounds survey in section 6, Township 22 South, Range 60 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, under Group No. 810, was accepted April 14, 2003.

These surveys were executed to meet certain administrative needs of the Bureau of Land Management and the Hughes Corporation.

3. The Supplemental Plat of the following described lands was officially filed at the Nevada State Office, Reno, Nevada, on April 15, 2003:

The supplemental plat, showing a subdivision of lots 5 and 12, section 1, Township 22 South, Range 59 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, was accepted April 15, 2003.

This supplemental plat was prepared to meet certain administrative needs of the Bureau of Land Management and the Hughes Corporation.

4. The Supplemental Plat of the following described lands was officially filed at the Nevada State Office, Reno, Nevada, on May 1, 2003:

The supplemental plat, showing a subdivision of original lot 5, section 6, and correcting an erroneous area shown for original lot 4, section 6, on the original plat, Township 17 North, Range 55 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, was accepted April 29, 2003.

This supplemental plat was prepared to meet certain administrative needs of the Bureau of Land Management.

5. The Supplemental Plats of the following described lands were officially filed at the Nevada State Office, Reno, Nevada, on May 22, 2003:

The supplemental plat, showing a subdivision of lots 15, 16, and 265, and

a revised area for lot 19, in the NW1/4NW1/4 of section 16, Township 22 South, Range 61 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, was accepted May 20, 2003.

The supplemental plat, showing a subdivision of lots 39, 40, 41, and 42, and revised areas for lots 29 through 38, and lots 43 and 44, in the SW1/4NW1/4 and the SE1/4NW1/4 of section 20, Township 22 South, Range 61 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, was accepted May 20, 2003.

These supplemental plats were prepared to meet certain administrative needs of the Bureau of Land Management.

6. The above-listed surveys are now the basic record for describing the lands for all authorized purposes. These surveys have been placed in the open files in the BLM Nevada State Office and are available to the public as a matter of information. Copies of the surveys and related field notes may be furnished to the public upon payment of the appropriate fees.

Dated: July 29, 2003.

**Robert M. Scruggs,**

*Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Nevada.*

[FR Doc. 03-20217 Filed 8-7-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Freeport Regional Water Project, Sacramento, CA

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact DES03-48 Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) and notice of public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Freeport Regional Water Authority (FRWA) have made available for public review and comment the Draft EIS/EIR for the Freeport Regional Water Project.

The proposed project would construct and operate a water supply system to meet regional water supply needs. The project would (1) support acquisition of additional Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) surface water entitlements to promote efficient conjunctive use of groundwater in its Zone 40 area, consistent with the Sacramento Area Water Forum Agreement and County of Sacramento General Plan policies; (2) provide facilities through which SCWA can deliver existing and anticipated surface

water entitlements to Zone 40 area; (3) provide facilities through which East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) can take delivery of a supplemental supply of water that would substantially meet its need for water and reduce existing and future customer deficiencies during droughts; and (4) improve EBMUD system reliability and operational flexibility during droughts, catastrophic events, and scheduled major maintenance at Pardee Dam or Reservoir.

**DATES:** Submit written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR on or before October 7, 2003 at the address provided below. Four public hearings have been scheduled to receive oral or written comments regarding the project's environmental effects:

- Thursday, September 4, 2003, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Sacramento, CA
- Tuesday, September 9, 2003, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Herald, CA
- Wednesday, September 10, 2003, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Oakland, CA
- Thursday, September 11, 2003, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Sacramento, CA

**ADDRESSES:** The public hearings will be held at the following locations:

- Sacramento, CA (September 4)—Pannell Community Center, 2450 Meadowview Road
- Herald, CA—Herald Fire Department, 127 Ivie Road
- Oakland, CA—EBMUD Training Room, 375 11th Street, 2nd Floor
- Sacramento, CA (September 11)—Wildhawk Golf Course, 7713 Vineyard Road

Please send written comments to Freeport Regional Water Project, Draft EIS/EIR Comments, Freeport Regional Water Authority, 1510 J Street #140, Sacramento, CA 95814, Fax: (916) 444-2137.

Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR may be requested from Mr. Kroner at the above address or by calling (916) 326-5489. See Supplementary Information section for locations where copies of the Draft EIS/EIR are available for public inspection.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Rob Schroeder, Reclamation, at (916) 989-7274, TDD (916) 989-7285, or e-mail: [rschroeder@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:rschroeder@mp.usbr.gov); or Mr. Kurt Kroner, at (916) 326-5489, or e-mail at [k.kroner@frwa.com](mailto:k.kroner@frwa.com).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Draft EIS/EIR addresses facilities-related impacts including the effects of project construction and operation on hydrology, water quality, fish resources, recreation, vegetation and wildlife, visual resources, cultural resources, land use, geology, soils, seismicity,