

notice of which is included as an appendix to the DEIS.

David B. Allen,

Regional Director.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-070-1020-PG]

Call for Nominations for Western Montana Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of nomination.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to solicit public nominations for a vacant Category 1 position on the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC). Category 1 includes: holders of Federal grazing permits or leases, transportation/rights-of-way, developed outdoor recreation activities, off-highway vehicle users, commercial recreation activities, commercial timber industry representatives, or energy or mineral development representatives. The term of the position will expire in September of 2001.

The RACs provide advice and recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on land use planning and management of public lands within their geographic areas. Public nominations will be considered for 45 days after publication of this notice. Individuals may nominate themselves or others; nominees must be residents of Montana. Nominees will be evaluated based on their education, training, and experience on issues and knowledge of the geographic area covered by the Western Montana RAC. Nominees should have demonstrated a commitment to collaborative resource decision-making. All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from represented interests or organizations, a completed background information nomination form, and any other information that addresses the nominee's qualifications.

DATE: All nominations must be received by the BLM Western Montana Zone no later than January 10, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Nelson-Dean, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM Western Montana Zone, 106 North Parkmont, P.O. Box 3388, Butte, Montana 59702; 406-494-5059.

Dated: November 10, 1999.

Merle Good,

Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-KP-00-1310-EJ]

Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Exploration and Development Project, Sublette County, Wyoming

AGENCY: Lead Agency—Bureau of Land Management, Interior. Cooperating Agencies—US Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture, US Army Corps Of Engineers, State of Wyoming.

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA) of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Exploration and Development Project DEIS which evaluates, analyzes, and discloses to the public direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts from continued exploration for, and development of, natural gas resources in the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA) in Sublette County, Wyoming. The DEIS analyzes a proposal by the Project operators to drill new exploration and development wells in their leased acreage within the PAPA (approximately 197,345 acres) in western Wyoming. The PAPA operators include Alpine Gas Company, Anschutz Exploration Corporation, B-P Amoco Production Company, HS Resources, Inc., Jonah Gas Gathering Company, McMurry Oil Company, Questar Exploration & Production, Ultra Resources, Inc., Western Gas Resources, Inc., Yates Petroleum Corporation, and other companies (collectively referred to as the PAPA Operators). Lands associated with the new drilling program are located between the town of Pinedale, Wyoming, and the Jonah Natural Gas Field located 30 miles south of Pinedale, and between the Green River and Wyoming Highway 191.

DATES: Comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 60 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes their Notice of Availability of this DEIS in the **Federal Register**. The EPA notice is anticipated to be published on November 26, 1999. The BLM asks that those submitting comments on the DEIS make them as specific as possible. Comments are more

helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies. Comments that contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response. However, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision making process.

A formal public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on January 12, 2000, at the Pinedale High School Auditorium, 101 E. Hennick, Pinedale, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing will be to afford the public the opportunity to comment on the proposed natural gas exploration and development DEIS.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the DEIS should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, Bill McMahan (Project Coordinator), 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, WY 82901, or they can be e-mailed to

rock_springs_wymail@blm.gov

A copy of the DEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to those persons who responded to the BLM that they wished to receive a copy of the DEIS. Copies of the DEIS are available for public inspection at the following BLM office locations:

Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office, Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 432 East Mill Street, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS analyzes a proposal by the PAPA Operators to drill new exploration and development wells in their leased acreage within the 197,345 acre PAPA. The PAPA is located within Townships 29 through 33 North, Ranges 107 through 110 West, 6th Principal Meridian. The area is accessed by U.S. Highway 191 and Wyoming Highway 351. Access to the interior of the PAPA is provided by an existing county and BLM road network developed to service homes and ranches located along the Green and New Fork Rivers, livestock operations, recreation use, and past and current drilling and production activities.

Collectively, the Pinedale Anticline Operators' proposal would provide for the continued exploration for natural gas and, where discoveries occur, the development of the gas resource by drilling up to 900 new wells to achieve 700 producing locations over the next 10 to 15 years. Drilling estimates were based on the operators', BLM's, and State of Wyoming's reasonable expectations that the "tight-gas"