

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Geological Survey****Request for Public Comments on Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act**

A request extending the collection of information listed below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the USGS Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made within 60 days directly to the USGS Clearance Officer, Geological Survey, 807 National Center, Reston, VA 20192. As required by OMB regulations at CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments regarding the proposed information collection as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the USGS, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the USGS estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The utility, quality, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Mine, Development, and Minerals Information Supplement.

Current OMB approval number: 1028-0060.

Abstract: Respondents supply the U.S. Geological Survey with domestic production, exploration, and mine development data on nonfuel mineral commodities. This information will be published as an Annual Report for use by Government agencies, industry, and the general public.

Bureau form number: 9-4000-A.

Frequency: Annual.

Description of respondents: Nonfuel Mineral Producers and Exploration Operations.

Annual responses: 754.

Annual burden hours: 566.

Bureau clearance officer: John E. Cordyack, Jr., 703-648-7313.

John H. DeYoung, Jr.,

Chief Scientist, Minerals Information Team.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[WY-030-1310-DB]

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Desolation Flats Natural Gas Field Development Project.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Desolation Flats Natural Gas Field Development Project.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Desolation Flats Natural Gas Field Development Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which analyzes the environmental consequences of the proposed Desolation Flats natural gas development and production operation. Expansion of natural gas exploration and development is proposed in and adjacent to other oil and gas developments in the Willow Reservoir, Wedge, Mulligan Draw, Powder Mountain, Desolation Flats, Ruger, Dripping Rock, Cedar Chest, Triton, Lookout Wash Units, and the surrounding areas, collectively referred to as the Desolation Flats Area. The 233,542 acre Desolation Flats project area is located within the administrative jurisdictions of the BLM Rawlins and Rock Springs Field Offices, approximately 21 miles south of Wamsutter, Wyoming, and 14 miles west of Baggs, Wyoming, in Townships 13-16 North, Ranges 93-96 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, Sweetwater and Carbon Counties, Wyoming. Surface owners of the project area lands are: Federal Government, 96 percent; private, 3 percent; and the State of Wyoming, less than 1 percent. Currently, there are approximately 63 oil and gas wells drilled within the proposed project area. If approved, up to 592 additional wells could be drilled over the next 20 years.

DATES: Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 60 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of

Availability of the DEIS in the **Federal Register**.

Two formal hearings are scheduled to obtain public comments on the proposed project and the DEIS at the BLM Rock Springs Field Office, Rock Springs, Wyoming; and at the BLM Rawlins Field Office, Rawlins, Wyoming. All meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may send written comments to: John Spehar, Project Manager, Rawlins Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1300 N. Third Street, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301. You may also comment via the Internet to: rawlins_wymail@blm.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

Please also include: "Attn: Desolation Flats Project Manager" and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at the BLM Rawlins Field Office, John Spehar, 307-328-4264. You may hand-deliver comments to Rawlins Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1300 N. Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information including public meeting times, dates, and locations or to obtain a copy of the DEIS, contact John Spehar, telephone 307-328-4264 or you may view or download an electronic version of the document from our BLM State Web site at <http://www.wy.blm.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Marathon Oil Company, EOG Resources, Inc., Tom Brown, Inc., Basin Exploration, Inc., Yates Petroleum Corporation, Questar Exploration and Production Company, Merit Energy Company, Santa Fe Snyder Corporation and other companies (Operators) have submitted a proposal to drill up to 592 wells in the Desolation Flats area. Over the next 20 years, the Operators propose to explore and develop the oil and gas resources held through their existing leases within the Desolation Flats Project Area. Well density would range from two wells per 640 acres to four wells per 640 acres, depending on geologic conditions.