

Development to date includes 1,805 active wells and 394 plugged and reclaimed wells within the CDW2 area. Currently within the CBG project area, 369 wells are active and 105 wells have been plugged and reclaimed. Existing infrastructure developed for CDW2 and CBG projects approved under previous environmental documents include: Arterial, collector, and well pad roads; compressor stations; connecting and sales pipelines; water wells; and powerlines.

BP America Production Company, the lead applicant representing itself, Devon, and other leaseholders, has proposed drilling and developing about 8,950 natural gas wells, including 100 to 500 coalbed natural gas wells, within the Continental Divide—Creston (CDC) project area. Wells would use a combination of vertical and directional drilling techniques. The proposal calls for a 15-year construction period with a 30 to 40 year life of project development and operational period.

Associated project facilities would include additional roads, gas and water collection pipelines, compressor stations, water disposal systems, and an electrical distribution system. During the preparation of the EIS, any interim development on public lands within the CDC project area will require a detailed environmental review by the BLM.

The purpose of the development is to extract and recover natural gas from the Continental Divide—Creston area for distribution to consumers. This project would help meet the need, goals and objectives of the President's National Energy Plan. Natural gas consumption in the United States is expected to increase by 25% over the next decade.

The EIS will analyze the environmental consequences of implementing the proposed action and alternatives. Identified agency concerns include, but are not limited to direct, indirect and cumulative effects to: Surface and ground water resources; air quality; wildlife populations and their habitats; cultural and paleontological resources; threatened and endangered wildlife and plant species; and local and regional socioeconomics. Other issues of concern include access to private and public land; impacts of road development and transportation to noxious weed control and livestock grazing operations; ability to successfully reclaim disturbed areas.

In addition to the Proposed Action, the EIS will analyze the effects of a No Action alternative. Contents for alternatives being considered include: A range of drilling surface densities; phased development; a range of

mitigation measures; and best management practices.

The proposed development is in conformance with the 1990 Great Divide Resource Management Plan (RMP). This RMP is currently being revised under the title Rawlins Resource Management Plan. BLM released the Draft EIS for the Rawlins RMP in December 2004.

Robert A. Bennett,

State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-100-05-1310-DB]

Notice of Meetings of the Pinedale Anticline Working Group

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (1972), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG) will meet in Pinedale, Wyoming, for a business meeting. Group meetings are open to the public.

DATES: The PAWG will meet March 21, April 20, May 16, June 20, and August 1, 2006, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting of the PAWG will be held in the Lovatt room of the Pinedale Library, 155 S. Tyler Ave., Pinedale, WY. The June 20 meeting will be a field trip.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matt Anderson, BLM/PAWG Liaison, Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 432 E. Mills St., PO Box 738, Pinedale, WY 82941; 307-367-5328.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG) was authorized and established with release of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project on July 27, 2000. The PAWG advises the BLM on the development and implementation of monitoring plans and adaptive management decisions as development of the Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Field proceeds for the life of the field.

The agenda for these meetings will include discussions concerning any modifications task groups may wish to make to their monitoring recommendations, a discussion on

monitoring funding sources, and overall adaptive management implementation as it applies to the PAWG. At a minimum, public comments will be heard prior to lunch and adjournment of the meeting.

Dated: February 24, 2006.

Kathy Gunderman,

Acting Field Office Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Notice of Public Scoping Meetings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold Public Scoping Meetings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012.

Pursuant to the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the MMS will hold Public Scoping Meetings on the Draft EIS for the 2007-2012 OCS Oil and Gas 5-Year Leasing Program. The MMS stated its intent to prepare an EIS in the August 24, 2005, **Federal Register** notice and Request for Information (RFI). In the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) and **Federal Register** notice and RFI on February 9, 2006, the MMS again solicited comments and provided procedures for submitting them, and again stated its intent to hold Public Scoping Meetings. The following Public Scoping Meetings are planned for the DEIS development.

Dates and Locations for Public Scoping Meetings

March 6, 2006—Inupiat Heritage Center, Barrow, Alaska, 7 p.m. *Contact:* Mr. Albert Barros, 907-334-5209.

March 7, 2006—Qargi Center, Kaktovik, Alaska, 7 p.m. *Contact:* Mr. Albert Barros, 907-334-5209.

March 8, 2006—Kisik Community Center, Nuiqsut, Alaska, 6 p.m. *Contact:* Mr. Albert Barros, 907-334-5209.

March 9, 2006—Arctic Slope Native Association Building, Wainwright, Alaska, 3 p.m. *Contact:* Mr. Albert Barros, 907-334-5209.

March 13, 2006—City of Dillingham Council Chambers, Dillingham, Alaska, 7 p.m. *Contact:* Mr. Albert Barros, 907-334-5209.