

Normally Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is preparing an EIS to address potential effects of a natural gas development project proposed by Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. (Encana). The proposed natural gas development project is located within what is referred to as the Normally Pressured Lance (NPL) project area, adjacent to the Jonah Field, approximately 35 miles south of Pinedale, Wyoming. The project area comprises approximately 141,000 acres of lands administered by the BLM in Pinedale and Rock Springs as well as state and private lands. It is generally located within Townships 27 through 29 North, Ranges 107 through 110 West, and 6th Principal Meridian in Sublette County, Wyoming. In compliance with NEPA, preparation of the EIS and associated Record of Decision (ROD) will enable the BLM to make future decisions that approve, modify, or deny anticipated Applications for Permit to Drill from Encana and associated rights-of-way in the project area.

Encana proposes to drill natural gas wells within the project area on an average of four multi-well pads per 640-acre section of land (approximately 3,500 wells). Each multi-well pad is proposed to average 18 acres per location. The wells, along with associated infrastructure, would be constructed over a 10-year period at a rate of up to 350 wells per year based on an average of 10 drill rigs working at any one time, or until the resource base is fully developed. Encana predicts an average life of 40 years per well. The extent of development will in part depend on the content of the EIS, ROD, and future permit decisions, including any environmental restrictions or limitations imposed by the BLM for operations proposed on BLM-administered lands.

The associated facilities proposed in the NPL project include roads, gas pipelines, powerlines, and separation, dehydration, metering, and fluid storage facilities to the extent such facilities are not already constructed. Hydrocarbons and associated liquids are proposed to generally be transported via subsurface pipeline to consolidated or individual compression, processing, and treatment facilities. Produced water would be transported by truck or pipeline to produced water disposal wells, discharged on the surface under appropriate permits, or transported to onsite evaporation ponds. NPL project development could result in the use of roads previously constructed and currently used in the project area as well as the construction of new roads. New roads are expected to consist primarily of access roads, using existing arterial roads for main access to the project area.