

Phoonswadi-Brewer, Sean

From: NPL_AR
Subject: FW: Comments on Encana NPLP

Robyn Morrison
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05/12/2011 08:46
 PM

NPL_EIS_WY@blm.gov

To

cc

Subject

Comments on Encana NPLP

Dear Ms Roadifer,

I would like to respectfully submit comments concerning the Normally Pressured Lance Project by EnCana.

I am a resident of Colorado, but was born and raised in Wyoming. My family still lives in Wyoming and one day I expect to inherit their land. My immigrant grandfather left a failed attempt at homesteading in Eastern Montana in the mid 1920's to work in the Salt Creek oil fields and Amoco refinery in Casper. My father also worked in the oil industry for Texaco and then Little America refineries as a blue collar lab technician in Casper. I worked in the maintenance department of Little America to earn money during my college years. I am well aware of the monetary benefits associated with the oil and gas industry. In the end, the oil industry provided our family the means to pursue the American dream... the hope that your children will get a solid education and have better opportunities than you did. But in the end, the oil industry did not make us wealthy.

Instead, the Wyoming landscape, abundant wildlife and the experiences afforded by the access to hike, hunt, fish, explore and discover on those lands...especially those lands owned collectively by the American public... is what gave our family a sense of wealth.

The development of the Jonah Field and the Pinedale Anticline over the past dozen years has been nothing less than devastating and has directly caused massive impacts to antelope, deer and sage grouse populations. There is more than enough science to back up this statement. Hall Sawyer's multi-year study on the impacts of gas development on deer and antelope populations clearly outlines that gas drilling has taken an enormous toll on wildlife resources. It is your duty to make decisions based on information that includes the body of science that has been documented in the last 15 years associated with drilling in this area and from other areas throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

The area under consideration is prime sage grouse habitat and includes the migration route for antelope moving between Teton National Park and the Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge. To protect wildlife the BLM needs to require a surface density of no more than one wellpad per square mile

throughout the entire project. Within sage grouse Core Areas, wellpads need to

be sited at least 3 miles from sage grouse leks to ensure reduced impacts to breeding and nesting activities. The BLM should provide a corridor at least 2 miles wide where drilling and road construction are not allowed along the migration corridor for the Grand Teton pronghorn herd.

Phased development should be required for this project. No more than 25,000 acres should be committed to full-field development at any one time, and new acreage can only be opened up for drilling after final reclamation of a similar acreage of wellfield.

The high levels of ozone reported in Pinedale this winter are also of great concern. It is incomprehensible that a county with a population of 10,000 is subjected to the same air quality as cities with populations in the millions. The science documenting the debilitating and sometimes life threatening effects to the respiratory system from exposure to ground level ozone is vast and decisions must be based on this evidence. Mitigation measures need to be taken to limit methane released into the atmosphere from drilling, completion and production, as well as from wellheads and pipelines into the atmosphere. Mitigation measures must also be taken to decrease exhaust pollution from engines installed on well pads or used in the drilling, completion and production processes, including fracturing and well servicing.

There has been little to no balance in the multiple use mission of the BLM from the Pinedale Field Office in recent years. Instead, the gas industry has flaunted the rules and regulations and run the show.

Prior to the Jonah and Pinedale Anticline development I spent occasional days in that area watching sage grouse during their mating season, marveling at the number of antelope or feeling the sting of wind driven sleet. The crush of wind often drowned out the crunch of sage or gravel underfoot, making conversation impossible. The last time I stood in that same place, there were no less than 10 wells within several hundred yards, the ground was scraped clean, UPS trucks and water tankers rushed by, the wind howled but the only sound was the drone of gas wells, drill rigs and traffic. Industry has been given every advantage for many years while other resources and the health of citizens have been compromised. It's time to return balance to the equation.

Thank you for considering my comments

Robyn

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