



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office  
P.O. Box 1828  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

In Reply Refer To:

1790 (030)

November 27, 2006

Dear Reader:

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project (ARPA) is submitted for your review and comment. The FEIS has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of drilling and production operations of natural gas wells and associated access roads, pipelines, and production facilities proposed by Anadarko E&P Company, LP, and others including Double Eagle Petroleum and Mining Company, and Warren Resources, Inc. The project area is located entirely within Carbon County, Wyoming.

Two technical support documents have also been prepared in conjunction with the FEIS. These documents contain detailed technical information for air quality and ground water modeling. A limited number of technical support documents are available upon request. The technical support documents and the FEIS will also be available for review at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices listed below. The FEIS and its technical support documents may be viewed or downloaded from the BLM website at <http://www.wy.blm.gov/rfo/nepa.htm>.

Bureau of Land  
Management  
Wyoming State Office  
5353 Yellowstone Road  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Bureau of Land  
Management  
Rawlins Field Office  
P.O. Box 2407  
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

Scoping for the ARPA was initiated in 2001 as the "Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project." The proponents modified their proposal to reduce the number of coalbed natural gas (CBNG) wells from the number originally proposed and to develop a limited number of conventional gas wells. The project was re-named to the "Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project" in 2003. The ARPA includes 270,080 acres, with surface ownership of approximately 173,672 acres Federal (64 percent), 14,060 acres State of Wyoming (5 percent), and 82,348 acres of privately held surface (31 percent). At present, there are 132 natural gas wells completed to coal formations within the ARPA. These wells, roads, pipelines, compressors, and other associated facilities were constructed in conjunction with an interim drilling policy, specifically for guiding exploration activities needed to evaluate the natural gas resources within the area.

This FEIS analyzes four alternatives including the proposed action and the no action alternative. The Proposed Action proposes to develop the natural gas resource by drilling up to 2,000 wells of which 1,800 would be drilled to coal beds and 200 to other formations. Based on the current knowledge of the geologic formations and the assumption of one well per well pad, the proposed well spacing would be up to 80 acres per well. Supporting infrastructure including pipelines, roads, and ancillary facilities are proposed. Waste water produced from coalbed natural gas production wells would be disposed of by sub-surface re-injection.

Under the Alternative A, No Action Alternative, the project as proposed would be rejected by the BLM. Existing Atlantic Rim wells could continue to operate as approved and constructed. Alternative D proposed the same number and types of wells, including supporting development as described for the Proposed Action conditioned on monitoring and minimizing the amount of surface disturbance. Alternative C would require the use of development protection measures for sensitive resources and would limit surface disturbance amounts resulting in less well development and recovery of natural gas resources.

The BLM's preferred alternative is Alternative D. Disclosure of the agency's preferred alternative does not imply that this will be the BLM's final decision. Additional information acquired from public comments and BLM internal review may result in the selection of an alternative, or combination of alternatives, to provide the best mix of operational requirements including mitigation measures and best management practices to reduce environmental harm.

If you wish to submit comments on the FEIS, we request that you make them as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies and be considered and included as part of the BLM decision making process.

Comments will be accepted for a 30 day review period starting with the publication of a Notice of Availability of this FEIS in the Federal Register. Please submit your comments in writing to:

David Simons, Project Lead  
Bureau of Land Management  
Rawlins Field Office  
P.O. Box 2407  
Rawlins, Wyoming, 82301

You may also submit comments electronically at the address shown below. Please put "Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project" in the subject line.

Atlantic\_Rim\_EIS\_WYMail@blm.gov

This FEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and other regulations and statues to address the environmental and socio-economic impacts which could result from the project. This FEIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and interested parties of the BLM's analysis potential impacts associated with implementing the company's drilling proposal and other alternatives.

Freedom of Information Act Considerations: Comments submitted for this FEIS, including the names and street addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review. They may be reviewed by visiting the Rawlins Field Office during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such request will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

A copy of the FEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies, and to those persons who have indicated that they wished to receive a copy of the FEIS. If you retain a copy of this FEIS it will assist you with understanding the Record of Decision when it is issued.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact David Simons, Project Lead, at the Rawlins Field Office, address shown above, or by phone (307) 328-4328

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Bennett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert A. Bennett  
State Director