

Chapter 6

Consultation and Coordination

6 Consultation and Coordination

An EIS must be prepared when a federal government agency considers approving an action within its jurisdiction that may impact the human environment. An EIS aids federal officials in making decisions by presenting information on the physical, biological, and social environment of a proposed project and its alternatives. The first step in preparing an EIS is to determine the scope of the project, the range of action alternatives, and the impacts to be included in the document.

The Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508) require an early scoping process to determine the issues related to the proposed action and alternatives that the EIS should address. The purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues, concerns, and potential impacts that require analysis in the EIS and to eliminate insignificant issues and alternatives from detailed analysis.

This EIS was prepared by the BLM RFO in Rawlins, Wyoming. A third-party contractor was used by the BLM to conduct studies, gather data, and prepare documents. Cooperating agencies for the Atlantic Rim project include the State of Wyoming, LSRCD, and the Saratoga Encampment Rawlins Conservation District. These agencies were actively involved in preparing, reviewing, and creating the draft and final EISs, as well as in developing mitigations and BMPs to reduce impacts from the proposed project.

6.1 Public Participation

A scoping notice was prepared and submitted to the public by the BLM on June 26, 2001, requesting comments to the proposed Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Field Development project. Scoping documents were sent out to the public listed on the BLM mailing list, as well as organizations, groups, and individuals requesting a copy of the scoping document. Public meetings to discuss the proposed project were conducted on July 10, 2001 in Baggs, Wyoming, and on July 11, 2001 in Rawlins, Wyoming. Fifty-seven written responses were received during the scoping period in response to this project. The issues and concerns identified by the public during the scoping period are summarized in chapter 1, table 1-6.

The Draft Atlantic Rim EIS was released in December 2006. The 60-day comment period resulted in over 59,400 individual comments including approximately 59,100 emails and 300 hardcopy comments. Comments were received from state, federal, and local agencies; environmental advocacy groups; landowners; leaseholders; oil and gas companies; and the public at large. Comments received were reviewed and substantive comments responded to. Response to comments are located in appendices N and O. Comments were used to develop another alternative and to modify, clarify, and correct the Final EIS as appropriate.

During preparation of the EIS, the BLM and the consultant IDT have communicated with, and received or solicited input from, cooperating agencies; other federal, state, county, and local agencies; elected representatives; environmental and citizens groups; industries; and individuals potentially concerned with issues regarding the proposed drilling action. The contacts made are summarized in the following sections.

The following organizations/individuals either provided comment or were provided the opportunity to comment during the scoping period.

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FEDERAL OFFICES

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

STATE AGENCIES

Governor Dave Freudenthal
Governor Jim Geringer
State Engineer's Office
State Senators
Wyoming Department of Environmental
Quality

Governor's Planning Office
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
State Representatives
Wyoming State Planning Coordinator
Wyoming Department of Transportation
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation
Commission

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Carbon County Commissioners

Carbon County Planning Commission

MUNICIPALITIES

Mayor-Baggs
Mayor-Rawlins

Mayor-Wamsutter

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Northern Arapahoe Tribal Council
Ute Mountain Tribe
Shoshone-Arapahoe Joint Tribal Council

Shoshone Tribal Council
Ute Tribal Council
Uinta-Ouray Tribal Council

GRAZING PERMITTEES

Weber Ranch
Salisbury Livestock Company
Three Forks Ranch Corporation
Mike Sheehan
H.B. Lee
Espy Livestock
PH Livestock Company

Montgomery Livestock Company
Stratton Sheep Company
Sam Morgan
Robert Orchard
Matt Weber
Jack Creek Land and Cattle Company

LEASE AND ROW HOLDERS

Stone & Wolf, LLC
Merit Energy Company
Benson-Montin-Greer

North Finn, LLC
P&M Petroleum Management
KCS Mountain Resources, Inc.

LANDOWNERS

The scoping notice was sent to 111 landowners potentially affected by the proposal.

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LOCAL MEDIA

Casper Star-Tribune
 Rock Springs Rocket Miner
 Wyoming State Tribune/Eagle
 KRAI - Craig, Colorado
 KRKK - Rock Springs
 KTWO - Casper
 KUWR - University of Wyoming

Rawlins Daily Times
 Wyoming State Journal
 Gillette News-Record
 KRAL - Rawlins
 KSIT - Rock Springs
 KTWO TV - Casper
 Northwest Colorado Daily News

OTHER AGENCIES, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, INDIVIDUALS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Audubon Society
 Wilderness Society
 The Nature Conservancy
 Field Museum of Natural History
 Department of Geology
 Montana Oil Journal
 Murie Audubon Society
 Petroleum Association of Wyoming
 Sierra Club
 Wyoming Outdoor Council
 Wyoming Stockgrowers Association
 Wyoming Woolgrowers Association
 Ivan Herold
 Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District

National Wildlife Federation
 Carbon County Stockgrowers
 Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
 Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States
 The Nature Conservancy
 Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association
 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
 Wyoming Public Lands Council
 Wyoming Wildlife Federation
 Vern Brodsho
 Little Snake River Conservation District
 Oregon-California Trails Association

6.2 List of Preparers

The following tables identify the BLM IDT (table 6-1) and the consultant IDT (table 6-2) that were principally involved with preparing this EIS.

Table 6-1. List of BLM Interdisciplinary Reviewers.

Name	Responsibility
Rawlins Field Office	
Missy Cook	Administrative Processes Specialist / Coordinator
Susan Foley	Soil Scientist
Nina Trapp	Cultural Resources
David Simons	Team Lead/NEPA Coordinator
Andy Warren	Range Resources
Bob Hartman Jon Dull	Petroleum Engineers
Mark Newman	Paleontology/Geology

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Table 6-1. List of BLM Interdisciplinary Reviewers.

Name	Responsibility
Rawlins Field Office	
Krystal Clair	Recreation and Visual Resources
Frank Blomquist	Wildlife/Fisheries and Special Status Species
Janelle Wrigley	Realty/Lands
Robert Lange	Hydrologist
Michael Bower Patrick Lionberger	Fisheries Biologist
John Ahlbrandt	Natural Resource Specialist
Wyoming State Office	
Susan Caplan	Air Quality
Janet Kurman	NEPA

Table 6-2. List of Consultant Interdisciplinary Team EIS Preparers.

Name	Affiliation	Responsibility
Principal Interdisciplinary Team		
Gary Holsan	Gary Holsan Environmental Planning	Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Project Manager
Mark Degner	The RETEC Group, Inc.	Assistant Project Manager
Larry Hayden-Wing	Hayden-Wing Associates	Wildlife/Fisheries, Special Status Animals and Fish
Dan Gregory	The RETEC Group, Inc.	Assistant Team Lead
Francesca Liccione	Parametrix Consulting	Assistant Team Lead
Steve Moore	Gary Holsan Environmental Planning	Assistant Team Lead
Amber Travsky	Real West Consulting	Wildlife Biology
Larry Bennett	Hayden-Wing Associates	Soils, Vegetation and Wetlands, Special Status Plants, Reclamation

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Table 6-2. List of Consultant Interdisciplinary Team EIS Preparers.

Name	Affiliation	Responsibility
Principal Interdisciplinary Team		
Ben Parkhurst	Hayden-Wing Associates	Fisheries Biologist
George Blankenship	Blankenship Consulting	Socioeconomics, Transportation, Health & Safety, Noise
Lloyd Levy	Lloyd Levy Consulting	Visual Resources and Recreation
Susan Connell Jim Zapert	TRC Environmental Corporation	Air Quality
Jana Pastor	Western Wyoming College	Cultural Resources
Gustav Winterfeld	Erathem-Vanir Geological Consultants	Geology, Paleontology, Mineral Resources
Charles Bucans	Star Valley Engineering, Inc.	Proposed Action/Coordination
Technical Support Team		
Travis Olson	Hayden-Wing Associates	Wildlife Biologist, GIS Specialist
Jeff Winstead	Hayden-Wing Associates	Cartographer, Wildlife Biologist
Elasha Fain	The RETEC Group, Inc.	Technical Editor
Amy Stice	The RETEC Group, Inc.	Document Assembly/Production