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02/07/2006 12:22 PM

To "Atlantic_Rim_EIS_WYMail@blm.gov"
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cc

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Subject Withdraw the Atlantic Rim drilling project

February 07, 2006

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

Dear Project Manager Simons,

I urge you to withdraw your current preferred alternative for the Atlantic Rim Project, and to revise your proposal to include critical environmental protections and balance industrial uses of public lands with the needs of public recreation, clean air and water and desert wildlife.

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Any final decision should keep roads and drilling pads safe distances away from sage grouse breeding and nesting areas (with a 3-mile buffer), sharp-tailed grouse breeding and nesting areas (1 mile), ferruginous hawk nests (2 miles), other raptor nests (1 mile), mountain plover nesting areas, 100-year floodplains, historic Overland and Cherokee trails (3 miles), and prairie dog colonies. I also urge you to require the strongest protective measures to prevent salt runoff from roads and soils, the underground injection of salty wastewater, and other activities that would harm the area's streams.

In addition, the project should use only directional drilling to cluster well facilities and truly minimize the drilling footprint, and allow only a small proportion of the project area to be in an industrialized state at any one time. It is also essential that the Wild Cow Creek proposed wilderness area be removed from the project.

The BLM should protect those few remaining places that are too special to drill, and manage remaining areas in an environmentally sensitive manner. Our natural heritage, including the Red Desert's Atlantic Rim, should be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

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