

Dated: June 23, 2008.

Michael Fris,

*Acting Regional Director, Region 8,
Sacramento, California.*

[FR Doc. E8-14581 Filed 6-26-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-100-08-1310-DB]

Notice of Availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project, Sublette County, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) that analyzes additional oil and gas development in the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA).

DATES: The FSEIS will be available for review for 30 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. A Record of Decision (ROD) will be prepared following the 30-day review period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Caleb Hiner, BLM Project Manager, 768 West Pine Street, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941. Electronic mail may be sent to: Caleb_Hiner@blm.gov with "PAPA FSEIS Information Request" in the subject line. The FSEIS will be posted at <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/pfodocs/anticline/seis.html> when available.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM conducted NEPA analysis and issued a ROD for the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project in July 2000. The BLM conducted this analysis in response to increasing numbers of operators requesting approval to explore for and develop natural gas on the Pinedale Anticline. The 2000 PAPA ROD established protection of big game crucial winter ranges from oil and gas developments (well drilling and completion) during the winter months, and therefore did not include analysis of the potential impacts of oil and gas development activities (specifically

drilling and completions) to big game on crucial winter ranges during the period of November 15 through April 30. The PAPA ROD provided that the BLM could grant limited exceptions to this winter closure period based on current conditions such as presence of wintering animals or depth of snow cover. Finally, the analysis in the PAPA EIS considered a total of 900 wells drilled with 700 producing well pads. The PAPA ROD stated that if the level of proposed development exceeds that analyzed in the EIS, BLM would conduct additional environmental analysis. There are currently approximately 460 producing wells in the PAPA.

Starting in winter 2002-2003, the BLM authorized Questar Exploration and Development Company to continue winter gas development operations at one well pad within big game crucial winter range with the requirement that they work closely with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in its study of impacts to the Sublette Mule Deer. Since then, other operators within the PAPA have expressed interest in conducting gas development activities including year-round drilling within big game crucial winter range. In summer 2005, Anschutz, Shell, and Ultra submitted a proposal to the BLM for year-round drilling demonstration project on three well pads within their leaseholds for one year. In September 2005, the BLM issued a Decision Record to allow them to proceed (ASU Year-Round Drilling Demonstration Project, September 2005).

In 2005, BLM received a proposal for continued and expanded long-term development of natural gas resources in the PAPA from Questar Exploration and Production, Shell Exploration and Production Company, and Ultra Resources Inc. ("The Operators"). The Operators proposed to conduct year-round drilling and completions in concentrated development areas within a core development area coinciding with the Anticline Crest in the PAPA. The Operators proposed an additional 4,399 wells on approximately 10-acre bottom hole spacing from an additional 250 well pads. The proposed development included construction of new well pads and substantial expansion of existing well pads to allow for multiple wells to be drilled from a pad. In addition, the BLM has determined that there is a need for new pipeline corridors between the PAPA and gas processing plants in southwestern Wyoming. Therefore, the FSEIS also includes analysis of potential new corridors.

The PAPA encompasses approximately 198,034 acres of primarily Federal lands (nearly 80 percent), and State and private land. Approximately 83 percent of the mineral estate underlying the PAPA is federally-owned. The BLM has identified the following resources that may be adversely impacted by the proposal: surface and ground water resources; air quality; wildlife and their habitats; reclamation; visual resources; transportation; noxious weed control; grazing, cultural and paleontological resources; wetland and riparian resources; threatened and endangered animal and plant species; and socioeconomic resources.

The BLM's Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a SEIS was printed in the **Federal Register** on October 21, 2005. A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft SEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 2006. The public comment period on the Draft SEIS closed in April 2006. Based upon public comment, the BLM determined two additional alternatives needed to be analyzed and made available for public review. A NOA for Revised Draft SEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on December 28, 2007. The comment period on the Revised Draft SEIS closed on February 11, 2008.

The FSEIS describes and analyzes five alternatives, including the No Action Alternative and The Operators proposed action. A summary of the alternatives follows:

(A) The No Action Alternative would continue development on the Pinedale Anticline under the conditions imposed by the 2000 PAPA ROD. The Operator's proposal for year-round access would be denied. This alternative does not provide for full resource recovery.

(B) Alternative 2, The Operators proposed action, includes year-round development of up to 4,399 additional wells. Development would occur in three areas of concentrated development within a core area. Tier 2 equivalent emission controls would be installed on drilling rig engines in 29 of 48 drilling rigs in 2009. The Operators have also committed to 3:1 offsite mitigation for wildlife, if necessary.

(C) Alternative 3 considers the same project components as Alternative 2; however implementation would be phased spatially. It analyzes a smaller core area, with five areas of development; year-round access would be limited by area. The goal of Alternative 3 is to minimize surface disturbance in some areas while maximizing development in other areas. Air quality mitigation to reduce impacts

in nearby sensitive areas is included in this alternative.

(D) Alternative 4, the BLM Preferred Alternative, is the result of comments received on the Draft SEIS. This alternative expands the core area slightly as compared to Alternatives 2 and 3, and delineates a potential development area around the core. Similar to Alternatives 2 and 3 the core area is broken into five development areas. The alternative also analyzes spatial phasing of development and applies Operator offered mitigation measures including Federal suspended leases and areas of no surface occupancy on areas outside the core of the PAPA. Adaptive management and a compensatory mitigation fund are also important elements of this alternative. Additional air quality mitigation is also included to further reduce impacts.

(E) Alternative 5 describes development of the full Operator proposed number of new wells (4,399) under conditions similar to the 2000 PAPA ROD, and without winter access in restricted wildlife habitats.

James K. Murkin,

Acting Associate State Director.

[FR Doc. E8-14493 Filed 6-26-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-921-03-1320-EL; COC-73016]

Notice of Invitation for Coal Exploration License Application, Peabody Coal Company, COC-73016; Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Invitation for Coal Exploration License Application, Peabody Coal Company.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended, and to Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 3410, members of the public are hereby

invited to participate with Peabody Coal Company, in a program for the exploration of unleased coal deposits owned by the United States of America containing approximately 3,980.0 acres in Morgan & Routt County, Colorado.

DATES: Written Notice of Intent to Participate should be addressed to the attention of the following persons and must be received by them within 30 days after publication of this Notice of Invitation in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Kurt M. Barton, CO-921, Solid Minerals Staff, Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals, Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215; and, Peabody Coal Company, PO Box 373, St. Louis, MO 63166.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The application for coal exploration license is available for public inspection during normal business hours under serial number COC-73016 at the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215; and at the Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson St., Craig, Colorado 81625. Any party electing to participate in this program must share all costs on a pro rata basis with Peabody Coal Company, and with any other party or parties who elect to participate.

Kurt M. Barton,

Solid Minerals Staff, Division of Energy, Lands and Minerals.

[FR Doc. E8-14614 Filed 6-26-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Environmental Documents Prepared for Proposed Oil and Gas Operations on the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of the Availability of Environmental Documents. Prepared for

OCS Mineral Proposals on the Gulf of Mexico OCS.

SUMMARY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), in accordance with Federal Regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), announces the availability of NEPA-related Site-Specific Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI), prepared by MMS for the following oil and gas activities proposed on the Gulf of Mexico OCS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Public Information Unit, Information Services Section at the number below. Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Attention: Public Information Office (MS 5034), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 114, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, or by calling 1-800-200-GULF.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

MMS prepares SEAs and FONSI for proposals that relate to exploration for and the development/production of oil and gas resources on the Gulf of Mexico OCS. These SEAs examine the potential environmental effects of activities described in the proposals and present MMS conclusions regarding the significance of those effects. Environmental Assessments are used as a basis for determining whether or not approval of the proposals constitutes major Federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment in the sense of NEPA Section 102(2)(C). A FONSI is prepared in those instances where MMS finds that approval will not result in significant effects on the quality of the human environment. The FONSI briefly presents the basis for that finding and includes a summary or copy of the SEA.

This notice constitutes the public notice of availability of environmental documents required under the NEPA Regulations.

This listing includes all proposals for which the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region prepared a FONSI in the period subsequent to publication of the preceding notice.

Activity/operator	Location	Date
Murphy Exploration and Production Company-USA, Initial Exploration Plan, SEA N-9060.	De Soto Canyon, Block 838, Lease OCS-G 10475, located 95 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	11/2/2007
Apache Corporation, Supplemental Exploration Plan, SEA S-7139.	High Island, Block A-376, Lease OCS-G 02754, located 120 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	1/8/2008
El Paso Production Oil & Gas Company, Structure Removal, SEA ES/SR 05-157A.	Vermilion, Block 102, Lease OCS-G 03393, located 29 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	1/8/2008
El Paso Production Oil & Gas Company, Structure Removal, SEA ES/SR 06-092A.	Eugene Island, Block 53, Lease OCS-G 00479, located 15 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	1/10/2008
W & T Offshore, Inc., Structure Removal, SEA ES/SR 07-160 ..	Ship Shoal, Block 201, Lease OCS-G 05557, located 42 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	1/10/2008