

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[UT-080-1310-00]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Resource Development Group Uinta Basin Natural Gas Project, Uintah County, UT**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an EIS on the Resource Development Group Uinta Basin Natural Gas Project, Uinta County, Utah and notice of scoping.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Vernal, Utah Field Office, will be writing an EIS on proposed natural gas development in 79,800 acres in the Atchees Wash oil and gas production region. The project is located primarily on BLM administered lands (69,560 acres). The project area also includes 9,080 acres administered by the State of Utah, and 1,160 acres of patented land. Sixty-four wells and 139 miles of primary and secondary roads exist within the project area. The proponent anticipates the drilling of up to 423 additional wells at a rate of 15 to 40 a year, accessed by approximately 126 miles of new roads. Unpainted steel sales-gas gathering lines would be laid on the surface and integrated into the existing gas pipeline gathering and transmission network. New compressor stations would not be required in the project area.

The number of proposed wells has been adjusted by the proponent from 970 wells in the original Environmental Assessment (EA No. UT-080-1997-50) based on further review of the following factors: topography; slopes with a grade of 40 percent or greater; mitigation of potential impacts on critical mule deer winter range; maximizing use of existing roads; drilling of deeper wells to drain larger reservoirs; and avoidance of the 100-year flood plain along Bitter Creek.

Major issues include potential impacts on critical mule deer winter range, recreational and visual resources near the White River Canyon and wilderness values. Alternatives identified at this time include the proposed action and the no action alternatives.

DATES: Public scoping comments will be accepted on or before November 22, 1999. A public scoping open house and information meeting will be held on November 18, 1999 from 4-7 p.m. at the

Western Park, 302 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah. If you have any information, data or concerns related to potential impacts of the proposed action including the issues identified above, or have suggestions for additional alternatives, please submit them to the address listed below.

ADDRESSES: Written scoping comments should be sent to: Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Field Office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah 84078, ATTN: Resource Development Group Uinta Basin Natural Gas Project.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Vernal Field Office and will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). They may be published as part of the EIS and other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review and disclosure under the FOIA, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Duane De Paepe (435) 781-4403 or e-mail: ddepaepe@ut.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In April, 1997, the Vernal Field Office initiated an EA (UT-080-1997-50) for this proposed project, located in the Book Cliffs Resource Area, Uintah County, Utah. In June, 1998, the EA was made available to the public and governmental agencies for a 30-day review and comment period. Forty-nine comment letters were subsequently received. Based on these comments, the EA was amended and published in final form in February, 1999. A Decision Record (DR)/ Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed on January 29, 1999, and was published with the EA and Conditions of Approval.

As a result of this decision, 12 requests for a State Director Review were received. In addition, a request for a stay of the DR/FONSI was received. A stay was issued until April 16, 1999, pending thorough review of the requests received. The stay was subsequently extended until the review could be completed and a decision issued. On May 21, 1999 the DR/FONSI was vacated and the proposal was remanded to the Vernal Field Office for the preparation of an EIS. A proposed

action for this EIS was received by the BLM on September 10, 1999.

Sally Wisely,
State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[UT-912-00-0777-XQ]

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting of the Utah Resource Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management's Utah Statewide Resource Advisory Council meeting will be held on November 17-18, 1999, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the Council with an overview of the Resource Advisory Council in Utah, its past accomplishments and activities, some Utah specifics, and an overview of BLM programs in general.

The meeting will be held at the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, Aspen Rooms 1 and 2, 122 West South Temple. It is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on November 17 and conclude at noon on November 18. A public comment period, where members of the public may address the Council, is scheduled for 3:45 p.m. on November 17. All meetings of the BLM's Resource Advisory Council are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sherry Foot, Special Programs Coordinator, Utah State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 324 South State Street, Salt Lake City, 84111; phone (801) 539-4195.

Dated: October 15, 1999.

Sally Wisely,

Utah BLM State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[CA-170-1020-DH; Marble Creek, Allotment #6025]

Notice of Intent: To Amend the Bishop Resource Management Plan, Bishop Field Office, CA**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to consider amending the Bishop Resource