NEPA Priority Projects Update
April 16, 2014

Colorado:

- **Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) Supplemental Draft EIS.** The EPA has provided comments on a number of draft technical reports to support the Supplemental Draft EIS and new information regarding the hydrologic model used to develop the EIS. We provided comments on the last of the technical reports (stream morphology) on March 14, 2014. The EPA, CDPHE, and Northern met with the Corps on April 13th to discuss comments on the water quality effects analysis. The Corps has indicated that it anticipates pushing the Supplemental Draft EIS publication date out from June 2014 to winter 2014/2015 in order to revise the water quality effects analyses. *(Please note that the Corps has not yet made this schedule information public so EPA has not been sharing it.)*
- **Moffat Collection System Project Final EIS.** The EPA anticipates early receipt of the Moffat Final EIS this week (April 14th). The public comment period will be 45 days, beginning 4/25/14 and ending 06/09/14.
- **Colorado Air Resources Management Modeling Study (CARMMS).** The BLM Colorado State Office is conducting the CARMMS to focus on air quality related impacts associated with 10-year projected oil and gas development in Colorado. We are participating in the Air Quality Stakeholders' Workgroup.
- **Pawnee National Grassland Oil & Gas Leasing Analysis Draft EIS.** The USFS expects to release the DEIS for public comment in April. This is a programmatic analysis that will assess impacts associated with the development of potentially 240 wells on PNG lands over the next 10-15 years. Part of the planning area is within the Metro-Denver/North Front Range 8-hour ozone nonattainment area. We are participating in the Air Quality Stakeholders' Workgroup.

Montana/ South Dakota:

- **BLM Montana/Dakotas Air Quality Technical Workgroup.** We are collaborating with BLM MT/Dakotas regarding air quality analyses and an air resources management plan for Montana and South Dakota RMPs. We participate in the Air Quality Technical Workgroup. . We submitted scoping comments for the Lewistown Field Office RMP on 4/8/14. *(Note: A portion of North Dakota is also included in the modeling domain with the intention of addressing the ND Field Office RMP revision in 2015.)*

North Dakota:

- **Dakota Prairie Grasslands Oil and Gas Development Supplemental Draft EIS.** The Dakota Prairie Grasslands, a unit of the US Forest Service, is in the process of completing a Supplemental EIS to their 2003 ROD for Oil and Gas Leasing. We have reviewed preliminary sections on air and water.
- **Fort Berthold Oil and Gas Development Draft Programmatic EA.** BIA's Programmatic EA will consider drilling of 1,740 oil and gas wells over 5 years on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. EPA provided detailed comments on the preliminary Air & Water sections and is in the process of working through issues with BIA. On3/20/14, we provided additional comments on a revised Water Resources section and plan to have a follow-up conference call with BIA the week of 4/21 BIA intends to work through EPA comments and then will seek review from the cooperating agencies.

South Dakota:

- **Dewey-Burdock Uranium In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Final Supplemental EIS(SEIS).** The Final SEIS was released on 02/07/14. We reviewed the Final SEIS and provided comments to the NRC about including in the Record of Decision or license a statement about EPA's authorities under the 40 CFR Part 61, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, Subpart A – General Provisions (Subpart A); and Subpart W National Emissions Standard for Radon Emissions from Operating Mill Tailings (Subpart W). We also suggested that one domestic well down gradient of the project area be added to periodic

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monitoring during the operation and post construction periods. The NRC responded to our letter on March 25th restating that enforcing Subpart W is outside of their authority and reiterating the license condition that the licensee must obtain all necessary permits, licenses and approvals prior to commenting operations. Subsequently, Powertech Inc. (the licensee) has requested a meeting with EPA to discuss the Subpart A and W requirements (Air program lead).

Utah:

- **Monument Butte Draft EIS.** BLM is preparing an EIS for Newfield's proposed development of up to 5,750 oil and gas wells in the Uinta Basin. EPA is a cooperating agency on the project. EPA provided comments on the DEIS to BLM on 02/27/14.
- **Greater Chapita Wells Draft EIS.** EOG's revised proposed action includes infill development of 2,808 wells from 233 new well pads in their existing Chapita Wells and Stagecoach fields in the Uinta Basin. EPA is a cooperating agency for development of the DEIS. We have reviewed the Proposed Action, emissions inventory, and Near-Field Air Quality modeling protocol outline to date.
- **Moab and Monticello MLP EIS Analysis of the Management Situation.** BLM is preparing an EIS for a master leasing plan that will amend the Moab and Monticello RMPs with respect to oil and gas and potash leasing. EPA is an informal cooperating agency. To date we have reviewed the reasonably foreseeable development scenario and the analysis of existing conditions. The next step in the process will be alternatives development.
- **Alton Coal Tract Lease by Application Supplemental DEIS.** The EPA expects to review and rate the BLM's SDEIS for the Alton Coal project in May 2014. The EPA withheld our rating in our January 27, 2012 comments on the Draft EIS, under the bifurcated review process, due to significant air quality and wetlands concerns. Since that time the BLM has worked closely with the EPA and other Federal stakeholders to address significant issues in a Supplemental Draft EIS. Most notably, the Supplement will include a change in the BLM's Preferred Alternative. The new Preferred Alternative, designed largely in response to the EPA's comments, substantially reduces air quality, wetlands, and environmental justice concerns.

Wyoming:

- **Buffalo RMP/FEIS.** EPA provided comments and rated the DEIS a "3" – Inadequate on 11/07/13. Since then EPA has reviewed two preliminary drafts of the FEIS and has sent comments to BLM. We have participated in several conference calls to resolve our comments, most recently on 01/22/14. Source water protection remains an unresolved issue. We have had several meetings with WDEQ in an attempt to develop a unified set of recommendations for protecting drinking water sources, but have been unable to come to agreement. We plan to remain consistent with our comments for the Buffalo RMP/FEIS dated 01/03/14.
- **Bighorn Basin RMP Final EIS.** EPA provided comments on the DEIS in September 2011. The NEPA process has since been held up due to sage grouse issues, and EPA commented on a sage grouse specific supplement to the DEIS in October 2013. EPA reviewed the Pre-FEIS as a cooperating agency, and provided comments to BLM on 04/07/14. Publication of the FEIS is anticipated in May.
- **Moneta Divide Draft EIS.** This project includes up to 4250 wells in central Wyoming and will generate a significant amount of produced water. The proponent, Encana is seeking an aquifer exemption for a portion of the Madison that contains water that is much better quality compared to the quality of the produced water that could be injected. EPA is a cooperating agency and is encouraging development of an alternative that analyzes maximum water reuse, and minimum underground injection. EPA, WOGCC, WDEQ and Encana met on 4/14/2014 to discuss the project. EPA has requested a copy of the revised alternatives from BLM.

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- **Bear Lodge Project EIS Scoping.** This project includes development of an open pit rare earth metals mine (Bull Hill) and minerals exploration across 7,000 acres of the Black Hills National Forest in northeastern Wyoming. The EPA is developing a response to the Black Hills National Forest's formal request for scoping comments. Comments are due on April 30, 2014.

Multiple States:

- **National Air Quality MOU**. Mini introductory webinars for interested States and Tribes are being planned for summer 2014. The NPS is now the lead agency for the Senior Manager and Joint Agency Implementation Teams.

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