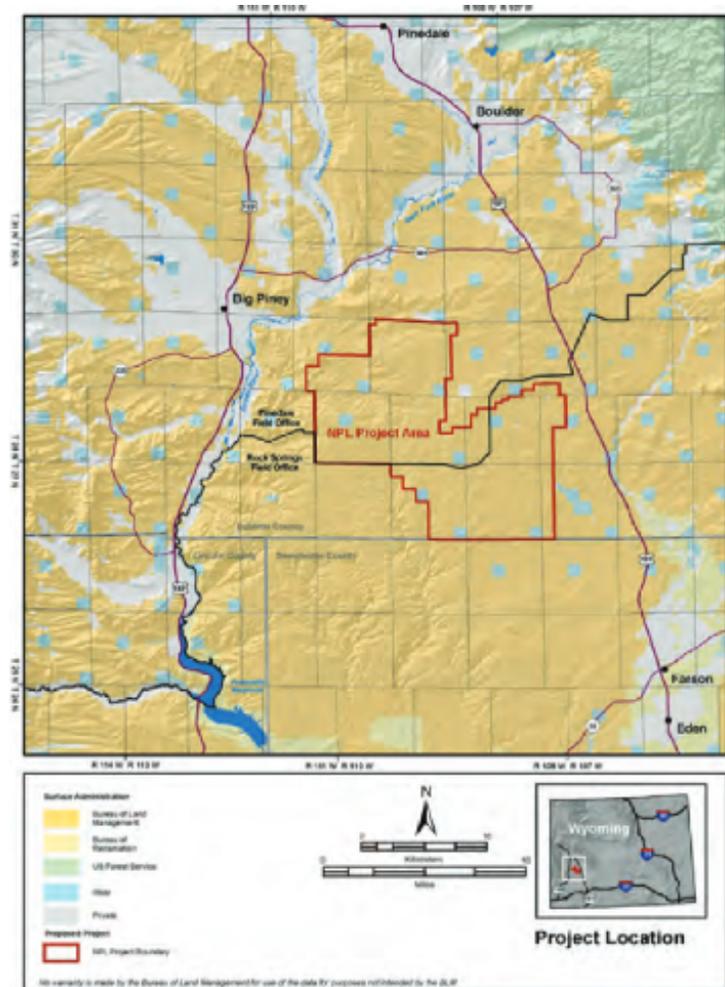


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BLM releases NPL Final Environmental Impact Statement

By Sublette Examiner staff



SUBLETTE COUNTY – The Bureau of Land Management released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Normally Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project in Sublette County on June 22. The FEIS is not a decision document, but one will be issued within 30 days.

The NPL project is located immediately south and west of the existing Jonah Gas Field in Sublette County. Jonah Energy, LLC, is proposing to drill up to 3,500 directional natural gas wells over a 10-year period. The project encompasses

approximately 141,000 acres of public, state and private land. Approximately 96 percent of the project area is on public lands managed by the BLM within its High Desert District.

In keeping with the Department of Interior's goal of energy independence, if approved, the NPL project could unlock up to 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The proposed project could also create approximately 700 jobs during the development phase and generate \$17.85 billion in total project revenues with federal royalties amounting to about \$2.2 billion, of which about \$1.1 billion would go to the state of Wyoming, according to a BLM release.

"Wyoming's energy strategy included a goal of getting at least three major environmental impact statements finished for large-scale energy projects in the state," said Gov. Matt Mead. "The release of the final environmental analysis of the Normally Pressured Lance natural gas project is exciting, and it is the second project that will have a completed environmental impact statement – a win for Wyoming in all ways. I look forward to the conclusion of this process when the Bureau of Land Management signs the final Record of Decision."

The Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was first published on April 12, 2011, and BLM Wyoming released the Draft EIS for the NPL Natural Gas Development project on July 7, 2017.

Throughout the more than seven-year process, Jonah Energy has worked closely with the state of Wyoming, the BLM and environmental partners to ensure the project has minimal impact on the community, environment and wildlife, according to a press release from Jonah Energy.

"We look forward to reviewing the details of the FEIS between now and the BLM's Record of Decision on the project. We're ready to get to work," said Paul Ulrich, Jonah Energy director of government and regulatory affairs. "As part of our plans for the project adjacent to the Jonah Field in Wyoming, Jonah Energy will readily continue to partner with the state, BLM and various community and environmental organizations to ensure that the NPL project sets the standard for environmental protection and sustainable oil and gas drilling."

"The NPL project is important to Wyoming and the nation," says BLM Deputy Director Brian Steed. "It will provide valuable natural gas to power the country, significant royalty revenue to the state and treasury, and the type of jobs that support western communities."

A copy of the entire NPL Final EIS is available at <https://go.usa.gov/xnp3Ehttp://tinyurl.com/hloulms>.