

especially interested in receiving public input in the following areas:

- what makes the Refuges special for you;
- what problems or issues do you see affecting management or public use of the Refuges?
- what improvements do you recommend for the Refuges?
- what changes, if any, would you like to see in the management of the Refuges?

The Service has provided the above questions for your optional use. There is no requirement to provide information to the Service. The Planning Team developed these questions to facilitate finding out more information about individual issues and ideas. Comments received by the Planning Team will be used as part of the planning process; individual comments will not be referenced in our reports or directly respond to.

There will also be an opportunity to provide input at open houses scheduled for March 1998 to scope issues and concerns (schedules can be obtained from the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge at above address). All information provided voluntarily by mail, phone, or at public meetings becomes part of the official public record (i.e., names, addresses, letters of comment, input recorded during meetings). If requested under the Freedom of Information Act by a private citizen or organization, the Service may provide copies of such information.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, Executive Order 12996, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

We estimate that the draft environmental document will be available for review in the fall of 1998.

Dated: February 23, 1998.

Joseph J. Webster,

Acting Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
[FR Doc. 98–5229 Filed 2–27–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed, High Mesa Waste Management Facility on the Nambe Indian Reservation, Santa Fe County, NM

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of DEIS and public hearing and public comment dates.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a proposed lease to construct and operate a combined municipal solid waste (MSW) and construction and demolition (C&D) waste facility on lands of the Pueblo of Nambe, Santa Fe County, New Mexico, is now available for public review and comment. This DEIS was prepared by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in cooperation with the Pueblo of Nambe, the Nambe Pueblo Development Corporation and their environmental consultants. A description of the proposed project location and of the environmental issues addressed in the DEIS are provided below in the Supplementary Information. This notice also announces a public hearing to receive public comments on the DEIS.

This notice is published pursuant to Sec. 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of Interior Manual (516 DM 1–6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

DATES: Written comments must arrive by March 30, 1998, at the address given below. All correspondence should show the following caption on the first page: “DEIS Comments, High Mesa Solid Waste Facility Project, Pueblo of Nambe, New Mexico.” The public hearing will be held on March 17, 1998, at the location shown below. We will consider all comments sent during this period, or submitted at the hearing, in preparing the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to Rob Baracker, Area Director, Albuquerque Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 26567, Albuquerque, NM 87125–6567. The public hearing will be held at from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on March 17, 1998, at the Nambe Pueblo

Fuel Terminal east of Allsup’s Convenience Store, at the Cuyamungue Arroyo on U.S. Route 84/285. This hearing will be co-hosted by the BIA and MCT Industries, Inc. of Albuquerque.

The DEIS is available for review at the following addresses: the Albuquerque Public Library, 501 Copper NW, Albuquerque, NM; the Santa Fe Public Library, 145 Washington Avenue, Santa Fe, NM; and the Espanola Public Library, 314–A Onate St., Espanola, NM. To obtain a copy of the DEIS, please write or call Curtis Canard, Environmental Protection Specialist, Albuquerque Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Albuquerque, NM 87125–6567, telephone (505) 766–1039.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Curtis Canard at the above address or telephone number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Proposed Action would permit High Mesa Environmental LLC (High) to lease 100 acres of the Nambe Indian Reservation for the purposes of constructing and operating a combined MSW and C&D waste facility for a variety of non-hazardous wastes. Approximately 200 to 400 tons per day of waste material would be delivered to the facility by truck. The purpose of the action is to help meet the northern New Mexico Pueblos’ solid waste management needs, and to provide a foundation for economic development for the Pueblo of Nambe.

The proposed project includes an initial C&D-only waste cell, with an operations area, and a site well. The facility will ultimately include five additional lined cells for combined MSW and C&D waste, two collection ponds, monitoring wells and a leachate evaporation pond. Offsite roadway improvements would also be necessary. The project will meet all applicable environmental standards and regulations.

The project area is in the central portion of the Espanola Basin, part of the Alamosa-Santa Fe segment of the Rio Grande rift, 17 miles northwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico. It is an isolated site located three miles from the Pueblo proper, with no infrastructure such as water, power, or roads. The terrain in this area is steep and mostly clay, with little to no vegetation. The area is considered badlands.

The DEIS addresses the issues identified at the September 25, 1997, scoping meeting and in the written comments that were submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Albuquerque Area Office. Alternatives to the proposed project that are

considered in the DEIS include: (1) limited development; (2) use of an old landfill site; (3) alternate sites on the Nambe Reservation; (4) alternate sites off of the Reservation; (5) use of the site for recreation; (6) use of the site for agriculture; and (7) no action. The environmental issues addressed in the DEIS include geology, topography, soils, water resources, air quality, living resources, cultural resources, traffic, land use, visual resources, socio-economics, public health and safety, and noise.

Dated: February 24, 1998.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 98-5324 Filed 2-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-070-5101-CO12]

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Plateau Creek Pipeline Replacement Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Plateau Creek Pipeline Replacement Project.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Grand Junction Resource Area office, Grand Junction District, had an Environmental Impact Statement prepared to address impacts of the Plateau Creek Pipeline Replacement project proposed by the Ute Water Conservancy District (Ute Water). The project is a raw water conveyance system proposed on private and public lands in Mesa County, Colorado to replace a deteriorated and under sized pipeline currently approved under BLM ROW grant C 081284.

Copies of the Final EIS will be available at the Mesa County Public Library in Grand Junction, Colorado, at the Grand Junction Resource Area, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506 at the BLM, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 and at the Ute Water Conservancy District, 560 25 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

DATES: The Final EIS will be available to the public for 30 days starting February 17, 1998. After the 30 day availability period a Record of Decision will be issued.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BLM, Dave Stevens, Project Team Leader, (970) 244-3009.

Mark T. Morse,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-5331 Filed 2-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[Docket No. WY-040-08-1310-00]

Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Jonah Field II Natural Gas Project. McMurry Oil Company, Snyder Oil Corporation, Amoco Production Company, Western Gas Resources, et al., propose to develop the Jonah II natural gas field in Sublette County by drilling up to 450 wells and constructing roads, pipelines, compressor stations, and other necessary facilities for producing and transporting natural gas. The FEIS analyzes the anticipated impacts of the proposed natural gas project.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead agency for the EIS. The FEIS was prepared for BLM by TRC Mariah Associates, Inc., a third-party contractor, under the provisions of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA).

The FEIS has been prepared in an abbreviated format. Alternatives considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the environmental effects of those alternatives have not been reprinted in the FEIS. However, sections dealing with air quality have been revised and are included in their entirety in the FEIS. You will therefore need both the DEIS and the FEIS for reviewing the complete document. Copies of the DEIS and the FEIS can be obtained from the BLM's Rock Springs District Office.

DATES: Written comments on the FEIS will be accepted for 30 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes a notice of filing of the FEIS in the **Federal Register**. We expect that notice will be published February 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send all written comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs District Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901 (Phone 307-352-0256).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Arlan Hiner, Team Leader, BLM Rock Springs District Office, Telephone No. 307-352-0206.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Jonah Field encompasses about 59,600 acres of land between Pinedale and Farson, Wyoming, within Townships 28 and 29 North, Ranges 107, 108, and 109 West, Sixth Principal Meridian. The Jonah Field has 49 producing natural gas wells. The Operators propose to explore, define, and develop the Jonah natural gas field by drilling up to 450 additional wells over the next 15 years contingent upon natural gas prices and markets.

The Jonah Field II EIS analyzes the impacts of the Proposed Action, a Sensitive Resource Protection Alternative, a Maximum Well Location Density of 4 per Section, and the No Action Alternative. Key issues include socioeconomic effects to people and communities near the project area and in the State as a whole; effects to antelope and antelope habitat, sage grouse, and raptor breeding and nesting; potential reductions in air quality and visibility; potential reductions in water quality; surface disturbance; and transportation planning.

The FEIS is a supplement to the DEIS published on July 25, 1997. It incorporates by reference most of the material presented in the DEIS and identifies the changes to the DEIS, and contains:

- The corrections and additions to the DEIS.
- Comments received on the DEIS and responses to the comments.
- The complete Air Quality Section in Chapter 4 and a revised Air Quality Technical Support Document.

EPA assigned the DEIS an EU-2 rating (Environmentally Unsatisfactory, Insufficient Information) contending that implementing the proposed action would cause adverse environmental impacts of sufficient magnitude to be unsatisfactory to environmental quality and represent a serious conflict with the national goals of the Clean Air Act. EPA believes that there are reasonably available alternatives to the proposed action which could reduce the predicted environmental impacts of the proposed action. Based upon EPA's comments, BLM made several changes in the Air Quality Section in Chapter 4 and in the Air Quality Technical Support Document. These sections are included in their entirety in the FEIS. No substantive changes were made to the proposed action.

This FEIS is not a decision document. A Record of Decision will be prepared and made available to the public following the 30-day comment period provided for the FEIS.