



In Reply To:
1793P

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Lewistown Field Office
Airport Road, P.O. Box 1160
Lewistown, Montana 59457-1160
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/ldo>



April 16, 2004

BLACKLEAF PROJECT SCOPING UPDATE April 2004

The Notice of Intent to prepare the Blackleaf Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published in the Federal Register on April 15, 2004. This notice signifies the beginning of the public scoping phase. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has scheduled these five public scoping meetings. The intent of each open house is to gather specific public comments about resources, issues and concerns.

May 3, Choteau - 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
High School Auditorium

May 17, Helena – 6 p.m. – 9p.m.
Carroll College Campus Center
Sienna/Ross/Rice Room

May 4, Great Falls – 6 p.m. – 9p.m.
Holiday Inn Convention Center

May 20, Browning – 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Blackfeet Community College Commons

May 5, Missoula – 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
University Center South Ballroom

Each open house will feature an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists and displays to answer questions and provide information. Each meeting will be identical. The open house will begin at 6:00 p.m. At approximately 6:45 p.m., BLM will provide a few brief remarks followed by a presentation about the industry proposal and a reasonable foreseeable development scenario. After this, the public will be encouraged to resume visiting resource stations or visit the public comment room. Should you arrive later in the evening, look for agency personnel for assistance. These open houses provide important opportunities for us to answer questions and provide information and for you to provide comments that will help identify the issues we'll analyze in this EIS.

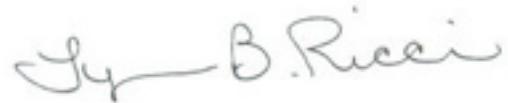
As you probably know, the BLM received an Application for Permit to Drill for natural gas on lease MTM 24615. This lease is located on BLM managed lands, in Teton County along the Rocky Mountain Front. The proposed drilling location is within the Montana Thrust Belt, approximately 75 miles northwest of Great Falls, Montana. The enclosure in this packet provides more detailed information regarding the proposed action, reasonable foreseeable development and the scoping phase of the NEPA process.

If you are unable to attend any of these open houses, and wish to comment, we'll be glad to accept written or e-mail comments. **Please submit your scoping comments by June 1, 2004.** Our intent is to provide frequent and equal opportunities for the public to participate throughout this NEPA process.

Comments should be submitted in writing to: Field Manager/Blackleaf Project EIS Team Lead, Bureau of Land Management, Lewistown Field Office, P.O. Box 1160, Lewistown, Montana 59457; or via electronic submittal to mt_blackleaf_eis@blm.gov. Your name will automatically be added to the Blackleaf Project mail list unless you notify us otherwise.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Lewistown Field Office during regular business hours and may be published in the EIS. **Individual respondents may request confidentiality.** If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. Anonymous comments will not be accepted. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn B. Ricci". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the first name.

Lynn B. Ricci
Blackleaf Project EIS ID Team Lead

1 Enclosure
1 – Supplementary Scoping Information (2 pp)