



United States Department of Interior
111 Garryowen Road

Bureau of Land Management

Miles City Field Office
Miles City, Montana 59301

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Date: July 19, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGENCIES SEEK PUBLIC COMMENT ON CBNG PROJECT

MILES CITY – The public is invited to contribute comments on the Powder River Gas Limited Liability Company Coal Creek Project Plan of Development Environmental Assessment and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Draft Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit.

The input is being solicited by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Miles City Field Office, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation (MBOGC).

Powder River Gas has proposed to drill 16 exploratory coal bed natural gas (CBNG) wells, (eight federal mineral and eight fee mineral), on eight private surface locations near the Tongue River Reservoir in Big Horn County.

Powder River Gas intends to test these 16 new wells plus two existing wells for CBNG potential and utilize a water treatment process to treat the produced water prior to discharging it into the Tongue River. Once the initial testing has been completed, the CBNG wells would be shut-in and production would cease until further notice.

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The documents and supporting technical reports are available for viewing and printing on the web at www.mt.blm.gov/mcfo. Public comments will be accepted for a 30-day period, ending on August 24, 2004.

A public hearing for to review the Montana Department of Environmental Quality MPDES Draft Permit, answer questions and receive public comment on the Draft MPDES Permit has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m., August 24, 2004 at the Bicentennial Library in Colstrip.

Persons wishing to participate in the review process are encouraged to submit written comments on the environmental assessment to: Bureau of Land Management, Miles City Field Office, Attn: Powder River Gas-Coal Creek POD, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT 59301-0940.

Written comments to the Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit may be sent to: Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Protection Bureau, Attn: Diane McKittrick, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901.

Comments directed to the BLM or MDEQ may also be emailed to dmckittrick@state.mt.us.

Following August 24th, the agencies will assess all comments and ultimately issue their respective decisions, individually through their agency representatives.

For further information, contact Shane Findlay, BLM Natural Resource Specialist at (406) 233-3640, Tom Ellerhoff, MDEQ Environmental Program Manager at (406) 444-5263, or Tom Richmond, MBOGC Administrator at (406) 656-0040.

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