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To: Edward A. Boling Energy Task Force/CEQ/EOP
cc:
Subject: Task Force on Energy Project Streamlining Comments

I appreciate the opportunity to comment to the Task Force on Energy Project Streamlining. My name is D. Steven Degenfelder, Vice President of Double Eagle Petroleum Company in Casper, Wyoming.

I hope your work will result in positive and tangible results. These results are sorely needed in Wyoming. BLM and Forest Service personnel, without specific direction from Washington, take it upon themselves to interpret NEPA as they see fit. Many of these people are clearly decided in their personnel opinions on natural resource issues and resist mineral development. Last August the lead BLM person on our on-site inspection of wellsites wore a shirt that said "Save the Bears" on it. This person was not viewed an objective by industry personnel in attendance.

There are so many occurrences where actions by BLM's and the US Forest Service have prevented orderly development of natural resources. Following is a short list of some of the issues my company has been negatively impacted by over just the last 2 years.

- 1) BLM's denial of a 1.5 mile pipeline right-of-way to transport our share of gas from multiple wells because they feel there is enough pipeline capacity in the area.
- 2) BLM requiring Black Footed Ferret studies on prairie dog towns in counties where no ferrets have ever been sited.
- 3) BLM's requiring cultural survey and weed spraying and taking 6 months before approving a right-of-way across 700 feet of BLM ground for a roadway to a new well site on private land.
- 4) BLM requiring a cultural survey be done on private land before they will process a right-of-way request across adjoining BLM land.
- 5) BLM requiring the construction of graveled roads before a well is determined to be economic.
- 6) BLM requiring a new road be built next to an existing road because the existing road is closer than the specified 20 feet requirement to a fenceline. Therefore more surface estate was damaged by our operations.
- 7) USFS's Forest Plan Revision taking 15+ years and counting to decide whether to offer a key 400 acre tract of land for lease. We have leases on 21,000+ acres of leases surrounding this tract. They have still not offered the tract for lease despite an IBLA ruling in our favor that showed the lack of this unleased tract prevented us from developing our remaining leases.

In addition, just to demonstrate the above issues are recent, I have attached a memo I wrote today seeking help from my Senator on another matter which BLM refuses to act on and approve.

I would be happy to discuss any of these issues with you in greater depth should you need additional information.

I hope you can improve the process which we currently operate in.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
D. Steven Degenfelder

Vice President
Double Eagle Petroleum Company
Casper, Wyoming.

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