



The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.

May 13, 2011

BLM Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources Leasing Programmatic EIS Scoping
Argonne National Laboratory
EVS, 240
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

Subject: Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resource Leasing Programmatic EIS Scoping

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the Scoping Notice to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and possible land use plan amendment for allocation of oil shale and tar sands resources on Bureau of Land Management lands (BLM).

Our comments are specific to our mission: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. The proposed action may affect our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, it's important you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

The WDA is very interested in the PDEIS and how future proposed projects will impact Wyoming's natural resources and agricultural industry. Although, the technologies to develop oil shale and tar sands are currently not available, the potential to develop these resources still exist. We suggest a hard look occurs regarding the socio-economic impacts such projects would have on all the multiple uses present on BLM lands and provide the ground work for properly analyzing project specific actions.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the scope of the PEIS. We encourage continued attention to our concerns and look forward to hearing about and being involved in future proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/cw

CC: Governor's Planning Office
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Stock Growers Association

Wyoming Wool Growers Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
State Grazing Board
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts

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