

Thank you for your comment, Douglas Monger.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is OST2012D50144.

Comment Date: April 25, 2012 12:41:00PM

OSTS 2012 Draft PEIS

Comment ID: OST2012D50144

First Name: Douglas

Middle Initial: B

Last Name: Monger

Organization: Routt County

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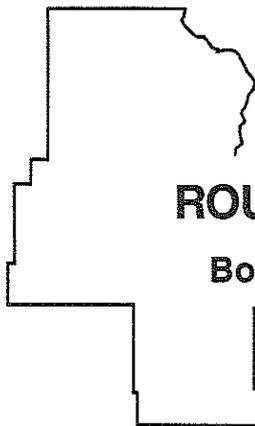
Zip: 80477

Country: USA

Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Attachment: 2012 Oil Shale & Tar Sands PEIS - Comments.pdf

Comment Submitted:



ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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April 24, 2012

ROUTT COUNTY, COLORADO

2012 Oil Shale & Tar Sands PEIS - COMMENTS

To be submitted via: <http://ostseis.anl.gov/involve/comments/index.cfm>

**Nancy J. Stahoviak
District 1**

**Doug Monger
District 2**

**Diane Mitsch Bush
District 3**

**Tom Sullivan
County Manager**

The Routt County Commissioners greatly appreciate the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's review of past decisions regarding oil shale leasing and development and offers the following comments:

Routt County, Colorado is a neighboring county of the oil-shale rich Roan Plateau in the Piceance Basin. When commercial development of oil shale occurs, our region will again be the likely epicenter of oil shale development as it was in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

In recent years our region was heavily impacted by natural gas exploration and production occurring in nearby private and public lands. Natural gas development brought significant growth to our region and placed considerable demands upon municipal infrastructure, resulted in a shortage of affordable housing and essential community workforce, caused material and labor costs to skyrocket and strained social services and law enforcement capacities. Full-blown commercial development of oil shale may have similar impacts to our region.

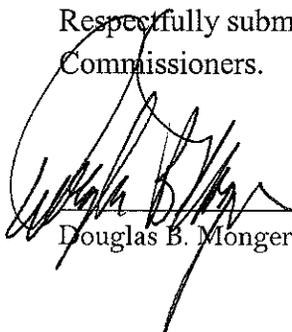
Although we are supportive of the current Oil Shale research and development activities, given oil shale's history in our region, the Routt County Commissioners want to ensure that we understand the impacts that may result from commercial production and from each company's technologies on our region. Such questions as: What will development mean for our economy – both positive and negative aspects? How much water will be used, for what, and how will local watersheds be affected? How will our infrastructure, community services and facilities be impacted, including roads, water, sewer, housing, law enforcement, etc.? How will production activities be powered? How will the environment and wildlife be affected? What will be the impacts relating to hunting, fishing and recreation in the oil shale development areas? Often we hear anecdotal responses to these questions, but like the industry, we need factual data on which to base our planning and infrastructure investment decisions.

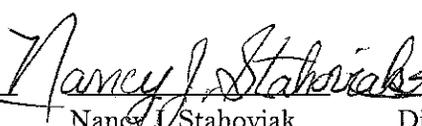
We want to ensure that communities expected to be impacted by commercial development of oil shale have the appropriate and necessary financial resources to address and cope with the effects of production. Our region has learned from past energy development "booms" that investment in community services, facilities, and infrastructure is needed many years in advance of commercial production and the associated tax revenue. Additionally, as governmental entities in Colorado have experienced increasing energy impacts in recent years, energy tax revenues that have historically flowed to local governments to respond to energy development impacts have been usurped by the State Legislature to balance their budget in this down economy.

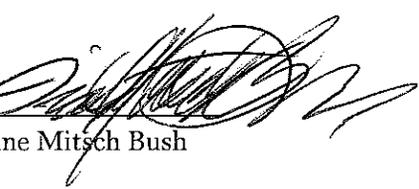
Routt County strongly supports action by the federal government to develop an oil shale cumulative community impacts study for the anticipated commercial production regions and dedicate funding to address the identified local impacts prior to approval of commercial production. Additionally, the federal government should develop an incentive program for oil shale companies to provide meaningful up-front and on-going investment in local communities and to local governments directly affected by oil shale development and production. Instead of selecting one of the alternatives put forward by BLM, the Routt County Commissioners request that whatever alternative selected requires R&D first. Additionally, we implore Secretary Salazar, BLM officials and our Congressmen and Senators to address the above mentioned issues through the federal regulatory or legislative processes to ensure that our region is prepared and will have the necessary assistance in place prior to the commercial development of oil shale.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Routt County Board of County Commissioners.


Douglas B. Monger


Nancy J. Stahoviak


Diane Mitsch Bush