

Thank you for your comment, Douglas DeNio.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is OSTS2012D50171.

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OSTS 2012 Draft PEIS

Comment ID: OSTS2012D50171

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

Attachment: BLM Oil Shale.docx

Comment Submitted:

Please see Attachment

To: BLM

4/30/2012

Subject: 2012 Oil Shale and Tar Sands PEIS

I am a resident of Garfield County, Colorado. For many years I lived in Parachute, Colorado and am very familiar with the dubious oil shale legacy including the various pilot projects currently underway.

The 2008 PEIS was fundamentally flawed. The adverse impacts of dedicating nearly 2 million acres of our Public Lands for industrial use at bargain basement prices, without a proven extraction technology and without having scientific data to measure impacts on the water, soil, air, wildlife resources and public health and safety was egregious. I commend the BLM for conducting this second stage PEIS to increase transparency and scientific rigor on this most important project.

I support the BLM's Preferred Alternative of allocating 462,000 acres for potential oil shale and tar sands leases as a measured response to enable the oil shale industry to conduct robust RD & D activities to identify viable extraction processes including cost/benefit ratio, energy requirements, water requirements, resource environmental impacts, impacts on wildlife, social-economic impacts, and health – life safety concerns.

As a registered professional engineer, I view the Preferred Alternative as a logical incremental progression in the decision matrix for oil shale development whereas the 2008 proposal was a political imperative to benefit the industry without transparency and scientific support. There are still groups (various County Commissions) with the misguided belief that the 2008 proposal is still preferred. The 2008 proposal was nothing more than an industry land grab that was not in the best interests for the citizens of the United States both economically and environmentally.

The citizens of Western Colorado have been through several oil shale busts over the past years; the latest being 30 years ago. Today, industry proponents tout that another oil shale bust is impossible now or in the future. In the early 2000's, the natural gas industry made similar claims that there "could never be an

economic bust in natural gas like there was in oil shale". The current economically depressed natural gas industry disproves the bravado claimed in the early 2000's.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Douglas DeNio, PE.

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