

Thank you for your comment, .

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Comment Date: May 3, 2012 17:37:02PM

OSTS 2012 Draft PEIS

Comment ID: OST2012D50270

First Name:

Middle Initial:

Last Name:

Organization: Town of Carbondale

Address: 511 Colorado Ave

Address 2:

Address 3:

City: Carbondale

State: CO

Zip: 81623

Country: USA

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

Attachment: DOC041.pdf

Comment Submitted:

To Whom it may concern:

Please find attached a letter from the Carbondale Town Board concerning the Draft 2012 Oil Shale and Tar Sand (OSTS) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

Sincerely,

Jay Harrington

Town of Carbondale



TOWN OF CARBONDALE

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May 3, 2012

Sherri Thompson
Oil Shale/Tar Sands PEIS Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management

Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Avenue
EVS/240
Argonne, IL 60439

Re: *Draft 2012 Oil Shale and Tar Sand (OSTS) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)*

Via <http://ostseis.anl.gov/involve/comments/index.cfm>

Dear BLM Manager:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Town of Carbondale Board of Trustees. The Board would like to express our support for the PEIS process that is currently under way in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming concerning land use plan amendments for allocation of oil shale and tar sands resources on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management

The Town of Carbondale fully supports the review process the BLM has engaged in since publication of a Notice of Intent on April 14, 2011 in the Federal Register, and we urge the BLM to continue the process and make appropriate amendments to the land use plans under review. It is noteworthy that the BLM held seven scoping meetings and that 4,663 individuals, organizations and governmental agencies commented or made suggestions about the scope of the PEIS that is part of the land use plan amendment process.

As elected officials in Western Colorado, we believe it is essential that the final plan allows the BLM and affected communities to present key questions to be answered about the environmental impacts on water, air and land before opening millions of acres of public land to commercial energy development. We also support the BLM's plan to require that the research and development of oil shale and tar sands technologies be completed and the impacts analyzed before moving forward with a commercial leasing program. The final result from the amendment process would ideally allow for oil shale and tar sands research and development in appropriate areas while protecting other important values that make public lands an important part of our economy.

Our modern economy is largely dependent on tourism and outdoor recreation services and to a certain extent agriculture. These economic drivers rely on a healthy environment, clean air and water, and access to the backcountry. Our ranchers rely on grazing permits on USFS and BLM

lands to support their businesses. Our retailers and guides rely on trout fishing, big game hunting, mountain and road biking and climbing, hiking and Nordic skiing. Our restaurants are supported by a mix of Carbondale's cultural and natural attributes to help draw diners. In short, this community's economic prosperity is closely tied to the public lands that surround it, and thus has a considerable stake in how public lands in Northwest Colorado are managed and developed.

The community of Carbondale wants to ensure that the BLM and local communities understand the impacts that may result from the various technologies that would be employed in commercial production. To gain the appropriate understanding we, like other elected officials in the region, believe there are a number of threshold questions that need to be answered before opening up vast portions of our public lands to oil shale commercial development.

- 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?
- How will local economies be affected, both positively and negatively?

We trust that the established process will address these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Bernot". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stacey Bernot
Mayor Town of Carbondale

CC: Representative Scott Tipton
Senator Michael Bennet
Senator Mark Udall