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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Vernal Field Office
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Vernal, UT 84078
(435) 781-4400 Fax: (435) 781-4410

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
EA UT-080-06-280

September 19, 2006

Dear Reader:

Included in this letter is an unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which has been prepared to accompany the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Oil Shale Research, Development and Demonstration Project at the location of the former White River Shale Oil Company Mine in Uintah County, Utah UT-080-06-280. The unsigned FONSI is also available online for your review at http://www.blm.gov/utah/vernal/nepa.html.

The Oil Shale EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) directing the preparation of the document. The EA describes the three phases of work that would occur to test the ATP retort process, and its ability to extract oil from mined oil shale. The project is located approximately 30 miles south of Vernal, Utah, within Township 10 South, Range 24 East of Uintah County, Utah.

The Proposed Action analyzed in the EA calls for 3 different phases of work. The first phase would consist mainly of hauling stockpiles of oil shale to a retorting demonstration plant in Canada. The second phase would consist of moving a demonstration retort processing plant to the former White River Mine area, processing stockpiles of oil shale that are on the surface, and eventually re-opening the White River Mine, and the commencement of mining of oil shale. The third phase would involve an up-scaling of the retort demonstration plant, continuation of mining, and the construction of various supporting facilities and utility corridors.

Based on the analysis in the EA of potential environmental impacts, and in consideration of the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, it has determined that, with the required and proposed mitigation measures, the Proposed Action, would not result in significant impacts on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is not required. The decision to approve or deny the Proposed Action, and if appropriate, a signed FONSI with rationale, will be released after consideration of public comments and completion of the EA.

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

The public comment period for the EA began on September 18, 2006, and ends on October 18, 2006. The BLM Vernal Field Office invites you to comment on these documents, particularly with respect to the adequacy of the analysis of environmental impacts.

Sincerely,

William Stringer

William Stringer
Field Manager

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) # UT – 080-06-280
Oil Shale Research, Development and Demonstration Project,
White River Mine, Uintah County, Utah.

This unsigned FONSI and the EA #UT – 080-06-280 for the Oil Shale Research, Development and Demonstration Project White River Mine, Uintah County, Utah are available for public review and comment for 30 days beginning on September 19, 2006.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts in the attached EA and consideration of the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that with required and proposed mitigating measures the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts on the human environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

The decision to approve or deny the Proposed Action, and if appropriate a signed FONSI with rationale, will be released after consideration of public comments and completion of the EA.