



U.S. Department of the Interior
U. S. Geological Survey
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Reston, Virginia 20192
Fax: 703-648-4466

Date: June 19, 2008__

FROM THE DESK OF:

To: The Office of the Honorable Jeff Bingaman

Office: _____

Nicole Adkinson

Fax Number: 202-224-2852

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4 Pages, including cover page



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Office of the Director
Reston, Virginia 20192

In Reply Refer To:
Mail Stop 915A
#2008465-DO

JUN 19 2008

Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman, Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of May 27, 2008, and your request for U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) oil and gas resource information regarding the Wyoming Range Withdrawal Area (WRWA), outlined in S. 2229.

Based on the map your staff provided, the withdrawal area encompasses parts of two geological provinces assessed by the USGS – the Southwestern Wyoming Province and the Wyoming Thrust Belt Province. The USGS conducts assessments of the undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources of the entire geologically defined province.

To approximate the amount of the estimated resources underlying the proposed withdrawal area, we placed the map provided to us into a geographic information system (GIS), calculated the amount of WRWA area that overlaps the assessment units we had analyzed and assessed in the two geologic provinces, and calculated the percentage geographic area that the WRWA represents of each assessment unit. We then calculated a first approximation of the potential undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources in this region by taking the mean estimates of each resource category and multiplying by the percent geographic area of each assessment unit. Results are as follows:

Mean oil potential in the WRWA is 5 million barrels
Mean natural gas potential is 1.5 trillion cubic feet
Mean natural gas liquids potential is 60 million barrels

Please note that these GIS-analyzed estimates can only be considered approximations, for the following reasons: (1) The map provided to us of the WRWA was a general outline and therefore subject to error when calculating the geographic extent of the assessment units relative to the WRWA; and (2) a homogeneous distribution of oil and gas resources was assumed across each entire assessment unit.

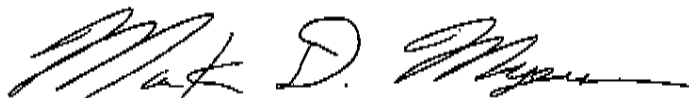
Honorable Jeff Bingaman

2

For an overview of USGS mean estimates for undiscovered, technically recoverable natural gas resources for geologic provinces within in the United States and their relative sizes, please see the map at http://certmapper.cr.usgs.gov/data/noga00/natl/graphic/2007/total_gas_mean_07.pdf

Please let us know if you have any further questions or we can be of further help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark D. Myers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark D. Myers
Director

DANIEL K. AKAKA, Hawaii
 BYRON L. DORGAN, North Dakota
 RON WYDEN, Oregon
 TRIS JOHNSON, South Dakota
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0150

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May 27, 2008

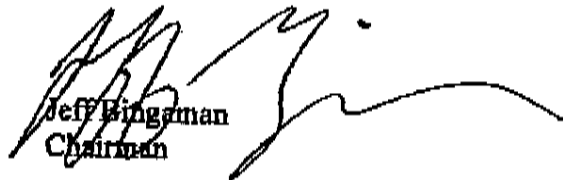
The Honorable Mark Myers
 Director
 United States Geological Survey
 Department of the Interior
 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
 Reston, VA 20192

Dear Director Myers:

I am writing to request information regarding S. 2229, the Wyoming Range Legacy Act. Specifically, I would like you to provide me with an assessment of the undiscovered and technically recoverable oil and gas resources that underlie the Wyoming Range Withdrawal Area as shown on the map entitled "Wyoming Range Withdrawal Area" and dated October 17, 2007. This map is referenced in the bill.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Kira Finkler on the Committee staff at Kira.Finkler@energy.senate.gov or (202) 224-5523.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman
 Chairman