

Letter 21



"don ross"
<dcr2@tds.net>

06/18/2003 01:18 PM

To: <lmattson@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Comments--Coalbed Methane

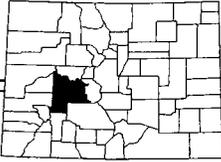
21-1

As residents of the Paonia area we wish to add our voices to the questions concerning the water resources at risk/needed in the drilling and retraction of coalbed methane.

Water is an important commodity: our lives depend upon a clean water supply. We agree with those who say that "some responsible authority needs to state unequivocally that water will not be impacted and if it is compromised in any way that such authority will immediately take care of the problem with no hassles." If this cannot be done we feel it should not be an attempted project.

Sincerely,
Don S. and Carolyn C. Ross
4041 Sage Lane
Paonia, CO 81428

Letter 22



GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PHONE: (970) 641-0248
FAX: (970) 641-3061

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION _____ **DATE** _____

JUN 23 2003

DISTRICT RANGER _____
MINERALS _____
LANDS/ENG _____
RANGE _____
WILDLIFE _____
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TIMBER _____

June 19, 2003

Lianne Mattson
GMUG National Forest
Paonia Ranger District
P.O. Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428
Attn: GEC Drilling Proposal

RE: Gunnison Energy Exploration Drilling Project
Response to Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms. Mattson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for the Gunnison Energy Exploratory Drilling Project.

22-1 [There remains a substantial lack of critical baseline data within the affected region,
22-2 [particularly that defining surface and subsurface water quantity and quality, and the
22-3 [potential effects of this operation directly to the environment, and indirectly to other
22-4 [economic elements of the region. Based upon the number of proposed gas and coal bed
methane gas wells and the scale of potential gas and coal bed methane exploration and
development within the affected region, the assessment of the direct, indirect and
cumulative environmental impacts to both federal and private lands, we continue to
believe these issues should be addressed in a full Environmental Impact Statement.

If, however, you choose to approve the application having conducted only the Environmental Assessment, we note the following:

22-5 [In approving Land Use Change Permits for coal mining activity over the past several
years, the County has reasonably required that truck traffic be limited, generally to
between the hours between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., to minimize the impacts of traffic to
the residents in Somerset. Though the Gunnison Energy EA notes that there may be
some economic benefit to Somerset businesses during the construction stage, it is likely
22-6 [that benefit will be limited, and the potential for the adverse impacts of additional dust
and noise to Somerset residents, and to tourists, seems far more probable. We
22-7 [



Letter 22 Continued

Lianne Matson Letter
June 19, 2003
Page 2

22-7 recommend that hours of truck operation through Somerset be curtailed to reasonable timeframes.

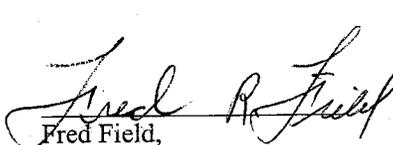
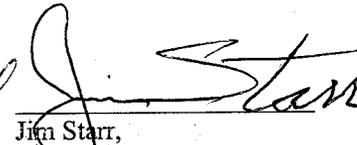
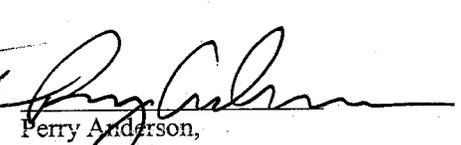
22-8 Unpaved roads should be treated with chemical surfactant or water as needed to control dust from soils and coal. Gunnison Energy should provide signage for truck traffic as approved in *The Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCO). A pilot car should be required for movement of the drill rigs. If plans of operations ultimately indicate that truck traffic will be using Gunnison County Road 265, Gunnison Energy shall be responsible for repairs caused by any damage that may be specifically attributed to their own truck traffic, and the Gunnison County Public Works Department shall be notified prior to the start of truck traffic for operations.

We have other concerns, but given the timeframe for review we have not addressed them all in detail.

22-9 Finally, as we noted in our earlier scoping response and other correspondence, Gunnison County has adopted the "Gunnison County, Colorado Temporary Regulations For Oil and Gas Operations". The proposed projects described in the Environmental Assessment shall require a permit from Gunnison County.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this document.

Respectively submitted,

		
Fred Field, Chairperson	Jim Starr, Commissioner	Perry Anderson, Commissioner



Letter 23

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION _____ DATE _____

JUN 20 2003

DISTRICT RANGER _____
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June 19, 2003

Ms. Liane Mattson
Project Manager, GEC Exploration Drilling Project
U.S.F.S.
P.O. Box 1030
Paonia, Co. 81428

Dear Ms. Mattson:

23-1

We are writing today to comment on the Environmental Assessment (EA) of Gunnison Energy's (GEC) exploration drilling project. We are in favor of the exploration project moving ahead in support of the Administration's Domestic Energy Policy. We support the multiple use of all public lands under the surface management of the USFS and BLM. We do not support the carving out of vast parcels of Public lands for single use management.

Our compliments to the USFS and BLM for preparation of a rather comprehensive document for such a project of such limited impact.

We support the project and appreciate that the EA acknowledges it is an "exploration" project and not "production" and, as such, is designed to test whether there are sufficient gas resources worthy of additional development.

23-2

We are however, concerned that the EA lists Potential Additional Mitigations in Table 2-8. In several places the EA lists mitigation for issues that the Proposed Action will not impact. For example, we see this in "Effects of drilling and hydrofracturing on groundwater quality and quantity", "Effects of drilling, completion and testing on surface water quality" and "Effects of drilling, completion and testing on surface flow". We searched the EA for the information supporting the imposition of these potential stipulations. What we found was that the EA determined there are no impacts predicted for these particular issues.

We believe the burden of proof is on the USFS and BLM to justify the imposition of these and any potential stipulations. This burden has clearly not been met by the discussions found in the EA. In fact what we found was quite the opposite. While the EA specifically acknowledges there will be no impacts to certain resources, stipulations are imposed anyway.

As such, respectfully, we believe the imposition of these stipulations appear quite arbitrary, pre-determined and without technical merit. Without further technical justification we believe any unsupported stipulations should be removed from the EA.

23-3

I also had an opportunity to glance at the GEC water studies which were conducted to analyze the impacts to Delta County's water supplies. I was pleased to find the exploration will have no impact to water supplies in the county.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EA.

Sincerely,


James and Billie Kiger
1373 Ragged Mtn. Drive
Paonia, CO. 81428

Letter 24

Jun 19 03 09:36p

mose oppenheimer

970-527-3936

p. 1

Maren Orion Oppenheimer

4095 M Road Paonia, CO 81428

Phone: 970-527-3937

Fax: 970-527-3936

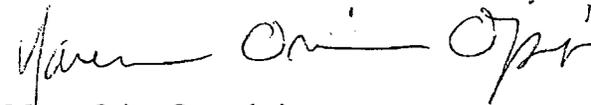
June 19, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

24-1

I am very strongly opposed to allowing Gunnison Energy to begin drilling for coal bed methane here in Delta County. This industry will have a very negative effect on the quality of life here in our area... The noise, the pollution, the traffic, the new roads, the potential water pollution...Please do not allow them to drill the test wells.

.Sincerely,



Maren Orion Oppenheimer

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION DATE

JUN 20 2003

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TIMBER _____

Letter 25

Jun 19 03 10:04p

mose oppenheimer

970-527-3936

p. 1

Mose Oppenheimer
4095 M Road
Paonia, CO 81428
970-527-3937
970-527-3936 (fax)

June 19, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very strongly opposed to allowing Gunnison Energy's request to drill for coal bed methane here in Delta County. We have a very high quality of life here in Delta County and the Western Slope of the Rocky Mountains.

25-1

Drilling these wells will threaten this quality of life. The traffic, the noise, the danger to the underground aquifer will change this area forever.

I urge you to not allow this devastation to occur.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mose Oppenheimer

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION DATE

JUN 20 2003

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Letter 26

Project Manager
GEC Exploration Drilling Project
PO Box 1030
Paonia CO 81428

1680 2475 Rd.
Cedaredge Co 81413
June 19, 2003

26-1

I have read portions of your environmental assessment and urge you to do further study before allowing drilling on Grand Mesa federal lands. Of utmost concern is the possible impact on our water supply as well as impact on wildlife.
This land belongs to future generations. Once it is marred, it is marred forever. Please help protect it.

Thank you.



Ruth G. Biggins

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION DATE

JUN 20 2003

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Letter 28

PAONIA RANGE DISTRICT
ACTION DATE

JUN 20 2003

6/19/03

DISTRICT RANGER _____
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Project Coordinator
PO Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

Dear Project Coordinator,

- 28-1 I am writing with great concern about the effects of coalbed methane drilling in our beautiful North Fork Valley.
- 28-2 My husband and I moved to Paonia because we believe it is one of the last great places left in Colorado. Gunnison Energy Company and their CBM drilling could easily destroy what all of us in the North Fork Valley love so much—our clean water, the peace and quiet, the clean air, the lack of heavy traffic on our roads, the gorgeous views, the abundant wildlife—all for GEC's gain and our terrible loss.
- 28-3 I am sick at the thought of the truck traffic and exhaust, the dust pollution, the new roads being cut through elk calving grounds, the chemicals pumped into the ground at each well site possibly polluting our groundwater, the noise from compressors and generators and the risk to wildlife.
- 28-4 I am asking you to conduct a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement. The current studies are incomplete and rely on outdated information.
- 28-5 Also, the USFS and BLM must require bonds that cover the full costs of reclamation. Rigorous enforcement of all regulations applying to the energy industry is an absolute must.
- 28-6 Please do the right thing for the citizens of the North Fork Valley and protect our environment—don't let Gunnison Energy or any other energy company destroy everything that we hold dear. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Margaret L. Shishim
4021 Cedar Drive
Paonia, CO 81428
dshishim@msn.com

Letter 29

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION DATE

JUN 20 2003

June 19, 2003

DISTRICT RANGER _____
MINERALS _____
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TIMBER _____

Project Coordinator
PO Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Dave Shishim and I am writing to comment on the proposed coal-bed methane project.

29-1

I believe that there is significant risk of adverse impacts, foreseen and unforeseen, from this project and as a result of that, the project should be postponed until appropriate research can be completed.

29-2

1. The potential impact to the quality of groundwater supplies is well known. As other coal-bed methane projects throughout the country have shown, the risk of groundwater contamination is very real. Here in the North Fork Valley, clean drinking water is quite rare. I am very concerned about the well proposed for the Stevens Gulch area and its potential to contaminate the springs that feed the Pitkin Mesa Pipe Line Company. Hydrofracturing can continue for very long distances from the bore itself depending on the subsurface geology. The destruction of this water source would have a disastrous impact on the economy of the town of Paonia and of Delta County.

29-3

2. The impact that the process of establishing, maintaining and operating just this one well will have on the local quality of life will be significant. Stevens Gulch at present serves as a quiet access to the Gunnison National Forest. With the onset of this proposal, Stevens Gulch will become a noisy thoroughfare as heavy equipment and trucks will utilize it at densities far beyond what the road was designed to accommodate. Dust and noise pollution will be significant as will disruption to the migratory animals in this area.

29-4

3. This project is significantly different from what was originally proposed by Gunnison Energy. The number of wells to be drilled on National Forest land is twice that which Delta County was asked to consider this past year.

29-5

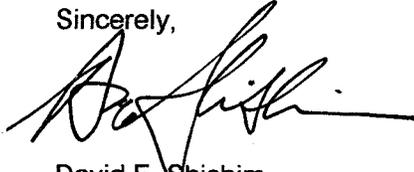
I urge you to seek a full review of this project including an in-depth Environmental Impact Statement that considers all of the impacts of coal-bed methane energy development. I urge you to be the steward of the lands of the United States of America for the benefit of all her citizens, not just the energy companies.

Letter 29 Continued

Ensure that Gunnison Energy is held to the highest standards, that the most modern methodology and technology is utilized, not just what is most cost-effective for Gunnison Energy. Make sure that the impact on our lands is kept to a minimum if this project is allowed to proceed.

Mr. or Ms. Project Coordinator, make damn sure that this is in the best interest of all of us because nothing I have seen so far leads me to believe that it is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Shishim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David E. Shishim
4021 Cedar Drive
Paonia, CO 81428

970-527-3009

Letter 30

June 19, 2003

Project Manager
GEC Exploration Drilling Project
POB 1030
Paonia, Colorado 81428

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing regarding drilling for coalbed methane in our national forests. I recently took a backpacking trip on the Grand Mesa, walking through beautiful meadows covered with wildflowers, drinking from fresh springs and even catching glimpse of a wild cat of some sorts. The natural beauty and serenity of that of public land is outstanding. While driving home I tried to imagine how my experience would have been different with coalbed methane wells dotted across the pristine land I had just traversed. To be honest I can not. It seems like a bad dream to think that we would let our last bits of open space be plundered by our need for out-dated energy sources. I do not think that wild cat would have been standing peacefully in that meadow Saturday morning if there was a drilling rig pumping away nearby. I do not think the frogs would have been singing a song so sweet if a giant "thumping" machine interrupted their melody. (Forgive me if I have the incorrect name, I have seen and heard these machines and they are not pretty.) Perhaps the precious cool water I shared with the frogs, fish and other creatures may not even have been good to drink if something went wrong in a nearby well.

30-1 [I urge the BLM, USFS and our elected officials to consider how these wells will impact our quality of life
30-2 [and the life of all creation's creatures on the mesa and in the surrounding communities. We are a
community with an economy based on recreation, ranching and agriculture. These economies could be in
serious jeopardy if we allow more extractive resource businesses access to our local lands. Drilling into
these coalbeds should not proceed without an impartial (not industry sponsored) comprehensive study of
the long-term, cumulative impacts on our water sources, air quality and wildlife.

30-3 [If drilling does proceed we must insist that the most stringent oversight and mitigation be required.
30-4 [Including mandatory, low emission generators, noise mufflers and use of energy efficient pumps. The
BLM and USFS must require bonds that cover full costs of reclamation and hold the corporations liable for
any possible damage to our ecosystem.

It is time we begin to look into the future and choose options that will promote biodiversity, clean air and higher quality of life instead of falling over to corporate interests. Methane gas is not a necessity in our current world. There are plenty of other "alternative" energy sources we should be considering such as solar, wind and small scale hydro. Lets be the best most creative culture we can be.

Sincerely,


Mark A. Colby

Paonia, Colorado

PAONIA RANCHER DISTRICT
ACTION DATE

JUN 23 2003

DISTRICT MANAGER
SUPERVISOR
MANAGER
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Letter 31

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION DATE

JUN 23 2003

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POB 266
Paonia CO 81428
6/20/03

Project Manager
GEC Exploration Drilling Project
POB 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

Dear Sir:
This is to voice my serious
displeasure at the cavalier
way this methane project is
going forward, placing our
precious, irreplaceable water
at risk, Gunnison Energy
should be spanked and sent
out of our valley. Yours Truly,
Jay McElrath

31-1 [

Letter 32

Project Manager
GEC Exploration Drilling Project
PO Box 1030
Paonia, Co 81428

June 19th, 2003

I am registering my protest against the proposed drilling in Delta County. Such a disruptive + intrusive industry is not compatible with the rural, agricultural, nature of this area.

32-1

Our watershed is fragile + will not support coalbed methane drilling; the county roads are narrow + dangerous + will not support increased traffic, nor will the surrounding forested areas be benefited by more access roads. All in all, it's a bad idea + I am opposed to it.

32-2

Linda Baker
330 W. Bridge
Hotchkiss, Co 81419

mailing:

330 W. Bridge
Hotchkiss, Co 81419

physical:

2650 N. Rd
Hotchkiss Co 81419

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT	
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TIMBER	_____

Letter 33



"Bob Campbell"
<bebob@compuserve.com>

06/19/2003 10:24 PM

To: <lmattson@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: comments on proposed wells

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SERIALIZED
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JUN 22 2003
FBI - DENVER
LM

To whom it may concern:

The following are my thoughts about the multi-well gas drilling project proposed by Gunnison Energy Corp.

- 33-1 [Drilling into the coalbeds should not proceed without a comprehensive study of the long-term, cumulative impacts, especially impacts to: regional hydrology, air quality and wildlife. BLM and the Forest Service need to consider *all* of the impacts of energy development on the forest and not simply look at one small project at time. The agencies
- 33-2 [need to conduct a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement or amend their Resource Management Plan to address the unique impacts of coalbed methane development.
- 33-3 [The current studies are incomplete and rely on outdated information. The best available technology and most stringent mitigations should be required at all drill sites and access routes: efficient low-emission generators, noise mufflers, dust
- 33-4 [suppression on all access roads (even during drought years), wellheads painted to blend in, fencing and nets to prevent wildlife and waterfowl from getting mired in drilling pits and
- 33-5 [use of energy efficient dynapumps, for example. The BLM and USFS need to require bonds that cover the FULL costs of reclamation.
- 33-6 [Local concern about the long-term compatibility of this industry with current community values needs to be taken seriously. The Bush administration claims to care about local input, so let your thoughts be known. This forest already supports energy development at three massive underground mines in the North Fork Valley, as well as natural gas drilling in the Muddy Country. Enforcement of this industry must be rigorous.
- 33-7 [This company has said they will be good neighbors, but the industry does not have a good track record for monitoring itself and agencies around the west have had difficulty keeping pace with development.

Thank you for your consideration of these points.

Sincerely,

Bob Campbell
1110 School Street
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601
phone / fax: 970-947-1515
cell / voicemail: 970-948-7772

Letter 34



hermes daniel
<danielhermes@yahoo.com>

To: lmattson@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject:

06/19/2003 02:42 PM

34-1

I am looking at the May 2003 Environmental Assessment for Gunnison Energy Corporation's Proposed Exploratory Gas Drilling Project. I would like state my support for the exploration. It is important for our country to explore our domestic energy resources, including renewables, given the current state of affairs around the world. Please move forward with this exploration as a small part of the complex solution to our nation's energy needs. I believe there is no need for

34-2

further expensive mitigation in the areas of traffic and roads or viewsheds.

Thank You
Daniel Hermes
1510 Blake St. #203
Denver, CO 80202

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SBC Yahoo! DSL - Now only \$29.95 per month!
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PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
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GDA _____
DBM/DBM ASST _____
LEO _____
TIMBER _____

Letter 35



"Wade and Cindy
Haerle"
<gjhaerle@hotmail.com>

To: <lmattson@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Supporting GEC Approval all Eight wells

PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT
ACTION
DATE

JUN 20 2003

06/19/2003 08:42 PM

DISTRICT RANGER
MINERALS LM
LANDS/ENG
GDA
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TIMBER

<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />
<?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarttags" /> June 19th,
2003

GEC Exploration Drilling Project
Attn: Project Manager
Post Office Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

RE: Support for the Eight Exploratory Wells

Dear Project Manager:

35-1 I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the GEC exploration wells. I would like to compliment the U.S. Forest Service for the impressive Environmental Assessment document. It is obvious how much work was put into the document's preparation. The extensive analysis on different alternatives proves the Forest Service's intensive investigation of this project. It is well done and very thorough.

35-2 I would like to express some observations I have from review of Table 2-8. My general comment is to request the Forest Service avoid any "additional mitigation" for areas noted as "no impact", "no significant impact" or "below acceptable standards". Within the Water Resources section, the document references no impact on water resources, which is supported by two independent water studies, yet the document calls expensive mitigation in WR 5, WR 6, and WR 12. I would hope these mitigations will not be required in the exploratory stage of Gunnison Energy's project.

35-4 Another concern is the surface reclamation bond in (V-3). The State of Colorado and the Bureau of Land Management already require reclamation bonds for oil and gas exploration projects, and it seems redundant to require yet another bond. Please reframe from requiring another bonding requirement when other agencies, with oversight powers, have bond requirements in place.

35-5 In general, I support the President's Energy Plan and believe the United States needs to develop domestic supplies of natural gas for national and economic security reasons. This project is consistent with these goals and the EA suggest no reason to deny Gunnison Energy's request for all eight wells.

35-6 In conclusion, I again would like to stress how much I appreciate the time and energy that has gone into this EA. I look forward to your approval and the results of the exploratory wells. This

Letter 35 Continued

35-6 | is a good project which deserves to go forward.

Sincerely,

Wade A. Haerle

970.216.8486