

# CBM DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREEN RIVER BASIN

- ⇒ CBM potential in GRB
- ⇒ Proposed projects
- ⇒ BLM NEPA process & issue identification for CBM projects
- ⇒ How is CBM produced?
- ⇒ Water disposal & water management planning

## **CBM POTENTIAL IN GRB**

- ⇒ Relatively unknown
- ⇒ Limiting factor in CBM production in GRB—sustained flows due to the permeability of the coals inhibit the production of gas
- ⇒ Past project results

# FUEL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

- ⇒ 1990-1991
- ⇒ Developed private lands near Dixon, WY
- ⇒ Target was Almond Formation coals between 810 to 2360 ft
- ⇒ Best well produced 60 mcf/d during 605-day production
- ⇒ Average well production 15 mcf/d
- ⇒ Water produced 500 to 600 bpd

## **STONE & WOLF ATLANTIC RIM CBM**

- ⇒ Proposal includes the development of three coalbed methane areas referred to as “pods”
- ⇒ 32 wells will be drilled in each pod (8 per section)
- ⇒ Maximum number of wells allowed under this project is 96

# OBJECTIVES OF ATLANTIC RIM CBM PROJECT

- ⇒ Which coals are gas productive?
- ⇒ Economic drilling & completion techniques
- ⇒ Can the coals be dewatered?
- ⇒ What depths or pressure windows achieve economic gas production?

# SOME ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING SCOPING

- ⇒ Water quality of aquifer
- ⇒ Availability of water data
- ⇒ Receiving waters
- ⇒ Testing of discharging water
- ⇒ Testing of downstream water
- ⇒ Loss of surrounding wells
- ⇒ Lowering of water table

## **MOST OFTEN DISCUSSED ISSUE!**

⇒ How much water and where is it going to go???

# CBM DEVELOPMENT

## PRB vs. GRB

- ⇒ Federal government minority surface and mineral owner
- ⇒ Pace of development determined by private developer
- ⇒ Lands and minerals almost exclusively managed by BLM
- ⇒ Pace of development determined by BLM



# CBM DEVELOPMENT

## PRB vs. GRB

- ⇒ In PRB, CBM development completed without benefit of environmental studies
- ⇒ CBM is a proven resource
- ⇒ CBM development will proceed with environmental analysis with restrictive measures
- ⇒ CBM is speculative

# **SOUTHWEST WYOMING REGIONAL ASSESSMENT**

- ⇒ Includes portion of Green River watershed
- ⇒ Proposed to Congress through the federal leadership forum
- ⇒ Data gathering and information database for use in regional assessment, RMPs, EISs, etc.