

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0105

Encampment area watersheds study.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Steward

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the environment; providing for a study
2 by the department of environmental quality on the impacts
3 of oil and natural gas development in the Encampment area
4 watersheds that have been identified for leasing of federal
5 subsurface oil and gas rights; providing for assistance by
6 other state agencies; providing for a report; providing an
7 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.**

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13 (a) The department of environmental quality shall
14 study the impacts of oil and natural gas development in the
15 Encampment area watersheds. The study shall include:

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1 (i) A review and analysis of current state and
2 federal law providing for oil and natural gas leasing,
3 drilling and production, and pipeline collection and
4 distribution, including preplanning and project study
5 requirements, impacts to rural residences and subdivisions,
6 surface and subsurface impacts, notice to landowners,
7 opportunity for public input and environmental protections;

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9 (ii) A review and analysis of state and federal
10 oil and natural gas leasing impacts in Wyoming;

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12 (iii) An analysis of potential impacts from oil
13 and natural gas leasing in the Encampment area watersheds,
14 including agriculture, wildlife, municipal, recreation,
15 tourism, social services, cumulative statewide impacts,
16 groundwater investigations, baseline water quality, soil
17 surveys, potential contaminations and the potential for
18 secondary beneficial uses of produced water;

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20 (iv) An analysis of actions necessary to protect
21 the resources in the Encampment area watersheds, including
22 agriculture, wildlife, municipal, recreation, tourism,
23 social services, environmental, rural residential,
24 aesthetics and roads; and

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2 (v) A review and analysis of local, state and
3 federal land use plans and the potential effect of oil and
4 natural gas production on the land use plans.

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6 (b) All state agencies, including the Wyoming water
7 development commission, the Wyoming oil and gas
8 conservation commission, the Wyoming game and fish
9 department, the Wyoming department of agriculture, the
10 office of state lands and investments and the state
11 engineer shall cooperate with and assist the Wyoming
12 department of environmental quality as requested in
13 performing the duties required under this act.

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15 (c) The Wyoming department of environmental quality
16 may consult and coordinate with county and local
17 governmental entities and with local conservation districts
18 as deemed necessary.

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20 (d) The department of environmental quality shall
21 report the results of the study to the joint minerals,
22 business and economic development interim committee with an
23 interim report by November 1, 2008 and a final report by
24 November 1, 2009. The reports shall include any

1 recommendations for statutory or rule changes to protect
2 the Encampment area watersheds from the impacts of oil and
3 natural gas development and to authorize investigations and
4 necessary actions by the department of environmental
5 quality or other state agency.

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7 (e) The joint minerals, business and economic
8 development interim committee shall review the report and
9 may sponsor legislation to implement any recommendations or
10 other legislation it deems beneficial to ensure the
11 protection of the Encampment area watersheds.

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13 **Section 2.** There is appropriated five hundred
14 thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) from the general fund to the
15 department of environmental quality. This appropriation
16 shall be for the period beginning with the effective date
17 of this act and ending June 30, 2010. This appropriation
18 shall only be expended for the purpose of conducting the
19 Encampment area watersheds study. Notwithstanding any
20 other provision of law, this appropriation shall not be
21 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
22 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
23 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
24 2010. This appropriation shall not be included in the

1 department of environmental quality's 2011-2012 standard
2 biennial budget request.

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4 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
5 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
6 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
7 Constitution.

8

9

(END)