

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 natural resource section of the governor's office on
 3 the impacts of oil and natural gas development in the
 4 Encampment area watersheds that have been identified for
 5 leasing of federal subsurface oil and gas rights; providing
 6 for assistance by other state agencies; providing for a
 7 report; providing an appropriation; and providing for an
 8 effective date.

9

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

11

12 **Section 1.**

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14 (a) The natural resource staff of the governor's
 15 administration shall study the impacts of oil and natural
 16 gas development in the Encampment area watersheds. The study
 17 shall include:

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2 (i) A review and analysis of current bureau of
3 land management resource management plans and the related
4 final environmental impact statements updating such plans in
5 the Encampment area as to their adequacy to address impacts
6 from oil and natural gas leasing, drilling and production,
7 and pipeline collection and distribution, including
8 preplanning and project study requirements, impacts to rural
9 residences and subdivisions, surface and subsurface impacts,
10 notice to landowners, opportunity for public input and
11 environmental protections in the agency's planning document
12 as required under the National Environmental Policy Act
13 (NEPA) of 1969 as amended;

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15 (ii) Addressing whether the plans and
16 environmental impact statements considered impacts to the
17 "human environment" of the following as required in NEPA
18 regulations:

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20 (A) Agriculture, wildlife, municipal,
21 recreation, tourism, social services, cumulative statewide
22 impacts, groundwater investigations, baseline water quality,
23 soil surveys, potential contaminations and the potential for
24 secondary beneficial uses of produced water.

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26 (iii) An analysis of whether the plans and
27 environmental impact statements considered actions necessary

1 to protect the resources in the Encampment area watersheds,
2 including agriculture, wildlife, municipal, recreation,
3 tourism, social services, environmental, rural residential,
4 aesthetics and roads;

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6 (iv) A review and analysis of whether local and
7 state land use plans were considered and the potential
8 effect of oil and natural gas production on the land use
9 plans.

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11 (b) All state agencies, including the Wyoming
12 department of environmental quality, the Wyoming water
13 development commission, the Wyoming oil and gas conservation
14 commission, the Wyoming game and fish department, the
15 Wyoming department of agriculture, the office of state lands
16 and investments and the state engineer shall cooperate with
17 and assist the governor's natural resource staff as
18 requested in performing the duties required under this act.

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20 (c) The governor's natural resource staff may consult
21 and coordinate with county and local governmental entities
22 and with local conservation districts as deemed necessary.

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24 (d) The governor's natural resource staff shall report
25 the results of the study to the joint minerals, business and
26 economic development interim committee with a final report
27 by September 1, 2008. The report shall also be provided to

1 the bureau of land management to possibly amend it's
2 resource management plan for the encampment area to include
3 the conclusions derived from the study established under
4 this act.

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7 **Section 2.** There is appropriated fifty thousand
8 dollars (\$50,000.00) from the general fund to the natural
9 resource policy account. This appropriation shall be for the
10 period beginning with the effective date of this act and
11 ending December 31, 2008. This appropriation shall only be
12 expended for the purpose of conducting the Encampment area
13 watersheds study. Notwithstanding any other provision of
14 law, this appropriation shall not be transferred or expended
15 for any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
16 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
17 by law on January 1, 2009.

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

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24

(END)