AAEA Pre-Conference Workshop: Energy Development, Environment, and Communities

The Anvils, Roan Plateau, Colorado *Photo: U.S. Dept. of Interior*

A tour of energy development in Western Colorado and Southern Wyoming

Sponsored by the University of Wyoming

Tour stops

Western Colorado (Parachute to Craig): This area is home to substantial energy resources, primarily gas, but also shale oil. The geological formations require specific types of production processes. It is also home to one of the sites where the Atomic Energy Commission experimented with nuclear detonations in the 60's and 70's to fracture deep gas formations to increase gas flow. Competing with this set of resources uses are regionally important wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, and recreational home development. The discussions will include both what the companies are confronted with to extract the gas and issues that the environmental community finds important.

Wamsutter, Wyoming *Photo: T.Foulke*

Eastern Sweetwater County, Wyoming/Wamsutter: The town of Wamsutter characterizes the dilemma of boom and bust as very few others do. As gas development has progressed this town of 270 residents has been surrounded by "man camps" of upwards of several thousand temporary workers. The stress on this community has created needs for social services, both public and private. Gas companies such as BP have stepped up and assisted the community in dealing with the transitory population increase. Participants will meet with the community development director to talk about plans and challenges associated with the sudden rise in population.

***Atlantic Rim Coal Bed Methane and Wind Power Developments* (Carbon County, Wyoming):**
This unconventional gas source requires water extraction to release the methane from the formations. Coal-bed methane development generates jobs, income, and tax revenues, but also water quality management problems and conflicts with competing surface uses. In this same area large wind projects are also planned. One development is expected to have 1,000 turbines and generate 2,000 MW of electricity. However this area is a high altitude and low precipitation area that is home to potentially threatened and endangered species such as sage grouse and migratory big game herds. Gas fields and wind towers are being placed in areas that biologists and natural resource managers know little about reclaiming and restoring, and about managing these socially important species of wildlife. Discussion at this site will include the soil and biological constraints that are endemic to these areas and the tradeoffs that policy makers face.

Photo: NREL

Photo: University of Wyoming

***Coal Gasification* (Laramie, Wyoming)**. The final stop will be on the campus of the University of Wyoming where work at UW's School of Energy Resources, in conjunction with General Electric, highlights the opportunities and challenges associated with "clean coal" technology. This technology has the potential for expanding the products from coal considerably and reducing coal's CO_2 contribution by capturing and sequestering CO_2 in deep formations. The discussion will provide an overview of integrated gasification combined cycle (the technology behind clean coal concepts) and geologic sequestration.

Itinerary:

Friday, July 23

6 :00am	Leave Denver for Parachute, CO (Breakfast provided)
9:30am	Tour Encana Parachute oil and gas development (Box lunch provided by Encana)
3:00pm	Leave Parachute for Craig, CO

Dinner on your own and overnight in Craig. (Possible side trip to Steamboat Springs for dinner. Craig to Steamboat is 42 miles, 48 minutes.)

Saturday, July 24

6:00am	Leave Craig for Wamsutter, Wyoming (Breakfast provided)
7:30am	Community development impacts tour in Wamsutter (BP America conference room)
9:30am	Leave Wamsutter for Atlantic Rim gas and wind developments (Box lunch provided)
4:30pm	University of Wyoming, Laramie, for Coal gasification presentation and discussion. (Dinner in Laramie)
7:30pm	Leave Laramie for Denver
9:45pm	Arrive Denver conference hotel

Questions:

How do I sign up for the trip?
Register for the workshop tour on the AAEA website at: http://www.aaea.org/2010am/registration.php

What does it cost? The registration fee is $150.

What should I take? An overnight bag, sunscreen, a hat and shades, and a very sturdy pair of shoes. Very sturdy shoes are a necessity for touring an energy development site. Tour hosts will provide other necessary clothing and hard hats.

Who do I contact? For more information contact Roger Coupal (coupal@uwyo.edu) or Nicole Ballenger (nicoleb@uwyo.edu)

Photo: U.S.F.W.S.