

Air Quality Issues Influencing Oil and Gas Projects in the Intermountain West

Zapert, Jim ^{*1} (1) Carter Lake Consulting LLC, Laramie, WY.

Oil and gas operations in the intermountain west are affected by numerous air quality issues and regulations. Air emissions from these operations are regulated by state agencies and the EPA. Since many oil and gas deposits are located on federal lands, companies are required to perform NEPA analyses to disclose the potential impacts to air quality as a result of the proposed developments. Due to the proximity of these developments to National Parks and Wilderness areas, analysis of potential impacts to air quality related values such as visibility, atmospheric deposition, and sensitive lake acidification is often required by the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Forest Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, recently discovered wintertime ozone formation in Wyoming has resulted in new challenges to the industry.

This presentation will provide an overview of many of the air quality issues facing oil and gas operators in the intermountain west, and an update on recent air quality studies in the region. Topics presented will include summaries of ongoing NEPA air quality analyses, issues related to compliance demonstrations for state and national ambient air quality standards including the new and proposed sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and ozone ambient air quality standards, analyses of air quality related values, and greenhouse gas emissions reporting.