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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POWDER RIVER BASIN INTERAGENCY GROUP MEETS IN BILLINGS

BILLINGS –Federal, state, tribal, and county government officials from Montana and Wyoming met in Billings, February 18, to coordinate on coal bed natural gas issues that cross state and agency jurisdictional lines and to provide input on state or area specific issues such as regional monitoring needs in the Powder River Basin.

The purpose of the meeting was not to consider any specific natural gas development proposals or make decisions affecting development.

The coordination meeting was geared toward agency information sharing and reports from Air, Water, Wildlife and Aquatics task groups. Each of the task groups are comprised of representatives from the attending agencies that meet independent from, but report to the main interagency group.

Attending agencies included; the Montana and Wyoming Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Montana and Wyoming Departments of Environmental Quality, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Wyoming Game and Fish, and the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Other organizations attending, but not official members of the group, included the Northern Plains Resource Council, Rocky Mountain Oilfield Testing Center, Devon Energy and the Western Research Institute.