



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Huron-Manistee National Forests
Mio Ranger Station
401 N. Court Street
Mio, MI 48647-9314

989-826-3252 (Voice)
989-826-6073 (Fax)
989-826-3592 (TTY)

File Code: 1950

Date: August 13, 2004

Dear Forest Neighbor:

The environmental assessment (EA) for the USA & State South Branch 1-8 Exploratory Gas Well has now been prepared and is enclosed for your review. The EA includes Alternative 1 (No Action), the Proposed Action, and Alternative 2 (Proposed Action with additional Conditions of Approval).. At this time, the agencies (Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) prefer Alternative 2. However, a final selection will be made after receiving public comments.

The 30-day comment period provides the final pre-decisional opportunity for public review of these proposed actions and environmental analysis. Comments must be received or post marked within 30 days of the date that this notice is published in the Cadillac News. In order to have standing to appeal a decision under 36 CFR 215, you must submit substantive comments during the 30-day comment period. Substantive comments are defined as comments that are within the scope of the proposed action, are specific to the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed Action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider.

The Agencies Responsible Officials (Leanne Marten; Forest Supervisor and Tim Abing; BLM Assistant Field Manager) would like you to submit your comments to:

Russell M. Bacon, Acting District Ranger
USDA Forest Service
401 N. Court Street
Mio, MI 48647

or e-mail comments to: comments-eastern-huron-manistee-mio@fs.fed.us (e-mail attachments must be readable by Microsoft Office 2000 or Adobe Acrobat 5.0)

and include the following:

- (1) name, address, telephone number, organization represented and title;
- (2) title of the document on which the comments are being submitted (South Branch Well), and
- (3) specific facts and supporting reasons that you believe we should consider in reaching a final decision.

Comments received in response to this project will become a matter of public record¹. If you have any questions, or need further information about this proposal, please contact Dwight Devereaux at 989-826-3252 ext. 313. Additional copies of the EA and color copies of the maps are available at the district office (Monday – Friday 8:00 – 4:30) or on our website at



www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/proposed_projects.htm. Copies of the final decision (called a decision notice) will be mailed to people who have submitted comments on this proposal and to anyone who requests a copy of these documents.

For appeal eligibility, each individual or representative from each organization submitting substantive comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Only those who submit timely and substantive comments will be accepted as appellants.

I appreciate your interest in the management of the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

Sincerely,

/s/ MICHAEL J. WEBER

Michael J. Weber
District Ranger

Attachment

¹ Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit such comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request that a submission be withheld from the public record by showing how the Freedom of information Act permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that confidentiality is granted in only very limited circumstances. The Forest Service will inform the requester of its decision regarding a request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the submission will be returned and the requester notified that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.

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