

Table 1. Powder River Gas Castle Rock-Stevens – Comparison of Alternatives

Project Component	Alternative A – No Action	Alternative B – Proposed Action
Number and type of wells and drill sites	No wells would be drilled	0 Federal wells 284 Private wells (proposed)/71 well sites
Drill site construction	No drill site construction	Well pad construction will be negotiated in the surface use agreement
Drilling Operations	No drilling operations	284 fee wells will be drilled in the same manner as described in the Castle Rock-Stevens POD.
Disposal of drilling and water treatment wastes	No waste would be generated	<p>A 35 feet x 35 feet x 12 feet deep reserve pit for the disposal of drill cuttings, water, drilling mud and excess cement is constructed at each well site. The reserve pits would be fenced.</p> <p>Reserve pit closure occurs within 90 days of well completion. After evaporation of fluids the pit is backfilled with soil and compacted to prevent settling.</p> <p>Garbage would be stored in containers at the well site and taken off site to an approved facility for disposal. Chemical portable toilets would be used during active construction.</p>

Project Component	Alternative A – No Action	Alternative B – Proposed Action
Gas & Water Pipelines & Electrical Lines	None constructed	<p>Approximately 9.73 miles of 15 feet wide corridor would be built.</p> <p>Buried high density polyethylene flowlines would carry gas from the wells to the treatment facility. Multiple flowlines would be placed in same trench and would parallel roads to the extent feasible.</p> <p>Produced water would be transported through buried high density polyethylene flowlines from each well site to the containment ponds for evaporation.</p> <p>Electricity would be brought into the project area from an existing line in the northern portion of the POD. Electricity would be routed to drop points above ground on poles. At power drop points, electricity will be moved to underground cable for burial in trenches dug to well sites. Multiple wells will be serviced from each drop point.</p>
Road maintenance and use	Road maintenance and use would remain in the current condition.	<p>Access would be primarily by way of 16.19 mile of existing and 22.05 mile of new two track trails to access private wells, plus use of 4.41 miles of all weather county road</p> <p>Earthen materials would come from adjacent locations owned by the landowner. Scoria would be used when necessary for surfacing material.</p> <p>All vehicle access will be negotiated with the land owners in the surface use agreements.</p>
Discharge of Produced Water	No water would be produced or discharged	No CBNG produced effluents will be discharged to surface waters of the State of Montana
Reclamation Measures	No reclamation needed	The surface would be reclaimed in accordance with the agreements with landowners. The disturbed areas would be seeded with a certified seed mix agreed to by the NRCS and the surface owner.
Reclamation Timeframes	No reclamation needed	Reclamation would take place per the agreement between PRG and the land owner for specific surface disturbance activities that have been completed, and concurrent with other operations in the project area.

Project Component	Alternative A – No Action	Alternative B – Proposed Action
Air Quality Monitoring	No effect	Per MDEQ permit requirements
Wildlife Monitoring	None required	Monitoring of specific wildlife species is not required on fee surface: The disturbed areas will be located to avoid disturbing sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, and mountain plover nesting sites.
Soils Monitoring	None required	Sites would be monitored by onsite visits during various stages of development and reclamation to ensure accelerated erosion is not occurring.
Water Quality Monitoring	None required	Per MPDES requirements