



1700 Lincoln Street
Suite 3200
Denver, Colorado 80203
303.861.8140
SM-Energy.com

4/28/2026

Kristi Petrie & Alece H. M. Montez
Co-Executive Directors
AJL Foundation

Dear Ms. Petrie and Ms. Montez,

We are in receipt of your letter dated 4/20/2026 and are responding to the expressed risks noted by AJL Foundation as it relates to the State Sunlight-Long oil and gas development plan.

SM Energy takes its environmental obligations seriously and remains committed to responsible stewardship in all aspects of our operations. We regularly evaluate and improve our practices to ensure compliance with regulatory standards and to minimize our environmental impact. SM Energy has also been historically recognized for our sustainability efforts, receiving top ratings from several independent, third party groups.

Our organization values contributions from local stakeholders, and the Colorado Energy & Carbon Management Commission's (ECMC) vote to advance the State Sunlight-Long wellpad development demonstrates the effectiveness of this collaborative process. On April 21, 2026, the ECMC approved SM Energy's State Sunlight-Long development plan and found that the site is protective of public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife resources. SM Energy remains dedicated to responsible development and will continue to engage with the community as the project moves forward.

We would encourage you to review the hearing materials, as well as the hearings themselves, all of which are available on the ECMC YouTube channel¹. The presentations and testimony will provide valuable insights to address your specific questions regarding best practices that establish the State Sunlight-Long development as one of the most protective oil and gas developments proposed in the DJ Basin.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James B. Lebeck".

James B. Lebeck
Executive Vice President – Chief Corporate Development Officer,
General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC85gdSA3EWoxH1kzjE-USbw>