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Bill Barrett Corp. Q1 2008 Earnings Call Transcript

Question-and-Answer Session

[Operator Instructions]. Your first question comes from David Tameron. Your line is open.

David Tameron - Wachovia

Hi, thanks. Congrats on a nice quarter. Joe you mentioned in the Uinta Basin and the deep test, I'm sorry, the deep drilling program, you mentioned the western structure is going to be delayed, probably until you are going to postpone that until after the record of decision. What's your target for the year? Are you still, before you had been targeting 50 shallow and five deep. Is that still accurate or are you going to have any deep rigs running?

Fredrick J. Barrett - Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

No, David. We released that rig at the conclusion of the ultra deep. Originally, as I mentioned the plan was to go test that west structure and then by that time we hoped to have had the EIS and we'd come back over to the east structure and just over the drilling on that. The eastern side of that structure, but since the EIS has been delayed, we released the rig. We won't bring it back until '09 when we have clarity on the number of continuous locations, so we're not mobing and demobing that rig for just one well.

David Tameron - Wachovia

Okay... and that's why I was asking. It's just the west structure, but it's the rig altogether, I just want clarify that? In the Piceance, and you mentioned you have well count from one... I guess 110 last quarter, you're now at 125. Can you give... you mentioned the explanation which I missed. Can you recap that point, is that just faster drilling days?

Unidentified Company Representative

No, that's a combination of things, David. Initially we had planned to operate three rigs in the field. We supplemented with four as we fell behind due to some of this weather in the first quarter. Results have been spectacular out there recently. Our a well costs are down in the vicinity of \$1.85 million from a target earlier of \$2 million, our EURs are generally up from targets of \$1 million to about \$1.25 million, and of course gas prices are strong. So rather than drop that fourth rig, when we have caught back up, we decided to keep it there and that will result in more wells and... because again results are so good, we're also eagerly looking at that ways to get that fifth rig active in the field as well.

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