

# **SCOPING STATEMENT**

## **Murphy Dome 3-D Geophysical Project**

**Nance Petroleum Corporation**  
**and**  
**Bureau of Land Management, Worland Field Office**

### **Description of Project**

Nance Petroleum Corporation has filed a Notice of Intent with the Worland Field Office to conduct a 3-D geophysical exploration project in a 13.6-square-mile area in T. 43 N., R. 91 and 92 W., in Hot Springs and Washakie Counties, Wyoming. (See map.)

The project would use vibroseis methodology. The pattern would use a 220' source interval with a 2200' source line interval, resulting in a density of 125 source points per square mile. Recording operations would begin upon approval and are expected to take 15-20 days to complete.

The project area comprises approximately 58% public lands, 11% state of Wyoming, and 31% private.

This project is within the Murphy Dome Oil Field. The Murphy Dome Oil Field was discovered in 1949. To date there have been seventy-eight wells drilled, of which forty-four have been plugged. There are currently thirty-three producing wells and one dormant well in the existing field.

### **Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents**

The document which directs management of federal lands within the project area is the Washakie Resource Management Plan (WRMP) and Record of Decision approved in 1988.

The WRMP states that, "All proposals for geophysical exploration will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Suitable surface protection measures based on the guidance for mitigating surface-disturbing activities in the Wyoming BLM Standard Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations, and access restrictions will be applied. Generally, geophysical exploration will not be allowed on BLM administered surface that is closed to oil and gas leasing."

### **National Environmental Policy Act**

To comply with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, which implement NEPA, the BLM is required to prepare an environmental analysis. The environmental document will serve several purposes. It will provide both the public and governmental agencies with information about the potential environmental consequences of the project and alternatives; identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the project and alternatives; and provide the responsible official with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project. The document will be prepared by an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) of BLM resource experts.

One essential element of the NEPA process is scoping. Scoping activities are initiated early in the process to:

- identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental analysis;
- identify environmental issues of concern related to the proposed sale;
- determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document; and
- identify potential mitigation.

This scoping statement has been prepared to describe means by which governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties may participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

### **Timing Requirements**

The public is encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Comments are due by **September 30, 2006**. Please submit your comments to:

Holly Elliott, Project Manager

BLM – Worland Field Office

PO Box 119

Worland, WY 82401

307.347.5193

E-mail: [worland\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:worland_wymail@blm.gov)

(Please include “Murphy Dome Scoping Comments” in the Subject line.)

Project documents and information can be found at: <http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/wfodocs/murphydome>

Bill Hill, Field Manager



Bureau of Land Management

Worland Field Office

P.O. Box 119

Worland, WY 82401