

Project Description

Proposed Action: Noble Energy Seismic Survey (Huntington Valley)

Proposed by: BLM, Tuscarora Field Office

Project Lead: Tom Schmidt

General Location: (Attached map)

Describe project in simplest form

Noble Energy, Inc. (Noble) proposes to conduct a 3-D seismic program (Project) in the Huntington Valley and Jiggs area of Elko County, southeast of Elko, Nevada (see Map 1). Noble owns both private and federal mineral leases in the Project. The surface ownership in this area consists of both lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private lands.

The purpose of the 3-D seismic program is to gain a better understanding of the subsurface geology to determine if there is oil and gas potential and to determine the best locations for exploratory drilling. The proposed Project will also provide information allowing identification of subsurface features that could impede drilling. Without the 3-D seismic program, the exploratory program would require significantly more exploratory wells. Thus, the seismic program reduces the exploratory drilling footprint that would otherwise be required and serves to narrow the areas within which Noble may propose to conduct exploratory drilling.

As directed by the BLM, Noble has conducted and is currently planning to conduct biological and cultural surveys of the project area along the proposed source and receiver lines, where vehicular traffic is proposed. Survey work is expected to be completed by May of 2013. Seismic data collection, recording, and cleanup are proposed to begin in September 2013 and would last for approximately 100 days. The Project includes the use of vibroseis units as the energy source. The potential need for the use of shot holes (with dynamite) is not anticipated but will not be determined until after the seismic source line location survey is complete.