

## SCOPING STATEMENT

### Meeteetse 3-D Seismic Exploration

### Saga Petroleum, LLC

### And

### Bureau of Land Management, Cody Field Office

#### **Description of Project**

Saga Petroleum, LLC has applied to the BLM for authorization to conduct geophysical exploration operations on federal lands (5,144.09 acres) in the Meeteetse Rim – Greybull River area north of Meeteetse, Wyoming. The proposed project covers an area of approximately 24 square miles located approximately 5 miles north of Meeteetse, east of State Highway 120, and includes State lands (1,469.55 acres) and private lands (13,196.36 acres) in portions of Townships 49-50 North, and Ranges 99-100 West, in Park County, Wyoming. If approved, the exploration would determine potential for the development of oil and gas resources in underlying geologic formations. The results of the geophysical exploration are expected to provide the applicant with high resolution images of hydrocarbon bearing reservoirs underlying the project area.

The project would include laying out of “source lines” in an east-west array and receiver lines in a southwest-northeast array. A combination of vibroseis buggies and shot-hole detonation would be used to generate seismic data along the source lines. Shot-holes would be drilled by buggy mounted and heli-portable drill rigs. A total of approximately 1,137 shot-holes will be spaced inline, 330 feet apart. The project is expected to last 90 days.

#### **Known Resource Concerns**

The proposed project is located on both the northerly and southerly sides of the Greybull River. It contains a number of known sage grouse leks and raptor nests, has a high potential for cultural resources, and also a high potential for significant paleontological resources.

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

The document which directs management of federal lands within the project area is the Cody Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision approved in 1990, which states “*All parts of the planning area that are open to oil and gas exploration are open to geophysical exploration.*”

#### **National Environmental Policy Act**

The BLM will prepare an environmental analysis in compliance with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, which implement NEPA. The environmental analysis will serve several purposes. It will:

- Inform the public and governmental agencies of potential environmental consequences
- Identify practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm and

- Provide sufficient information for BLM to approve or deny the project.

One element of the NEPA process is scoping. Scoping activities apply mostly to the public land associated with the project and 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 project, and
- determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental analysis.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to 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**

Comments are due by April 2, 2008. Comments should be submitted to:

David G. Seward, Project Manager  
BLM - Cody Field Office  
PO Box 518  
Cody, WY 82414  
(307) 578-5900  
E-mail: cody\_wymail@blm.gov

A media release regarding the project was also sent to media outlets.

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**Michael P. Stewart, Field Manager**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Cody Field Office**  
**P.O. Box 518**  
**Cody, WY 82414**