

RE: Scoping Notice
Modified Cooper Reservoir
Natural Gas Project

Dear Reader:

The enclosed Scoping Notice, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, initiates the analysis process for Intoil's Modified Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Project. If you are interested in participating in the scoping process, we request you respond by supplying your written or e-mail comments or concerns about the proposed activity by July 31, 2002. Please submit your written comments to:

Linda Slone, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604
e-mail: casper_wymail@blm.gov

(Please refer to the Modified Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Project in your response.)

Additionally, the Scoping Notice will be posted on the Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office's homepage at www.wy.blm.gov/cfo. Your response is important and will be considered in the environmental analysis process. If you do respond, we will keep you informed of decisions resulting from the analysis.

Please note that public comments submitted for this scoping review, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of the respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, e-mail address, or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this plainly at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you have questions concerning this proposal or if you need additional information, please contact Linda Slone at the above e-mail address, street address, or by phone at 307.261.7520.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael Karbs
Acting Field Manager

Enclosure

**SCOPING STATEMENT
MODIFIED COOPER RESERVOIR
NATURAL GAS PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**
Intoil, Inc.

Bureau of Land Management
Casper Field Office

Description of Project

[Scoping Letter](#)

Intoil, Inc. of Denver, Colorado has notified the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Casper Field Office that the company proposes a modification to the current drilling program as approved in the June 1998 Decision Record for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of Intoil, Inc.'s Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Development Project. The Decision Record for the Cooper Reservoir EA approved drilling, completing, producing, and reclaiming up to 73 additional wells, along with additional roads to provide for vehicle access and new pipelines to link wells with existing transportation pipelines. Expansion of an existing natural gas compression facility was also analyzed.

The modification project would change the drilling and spacing patterns and reduce the size and shape of the original project area. Specifically, the drilling and spacing pattern in the core or central area of the project area would change from one well per 40 acres to one well per 20 acres. The drilling and spacing pattern in the northern and western portions of the project area would change from one well per 80 acres to one well per 40 acres. The southern and eastern portions of the project area are being removed from the project area since no further drilling is expected in these areas (see Map 1).

National Environmental Policy Act

On reviewing the Intoil proposal, the BLM has determined that an EA will be prepared. The impact analysis presented in the EA will allow for one of two decisions to be made by the BLM Field Manager. The first is whether to sign a Decision Record with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which would allow the modified drilling program to proceed. The second decision is to identify whether the project, as proposed, would result in significant impacts and would require preparation of an environmental impact statement.

One element of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is scoping. Scoping activities are initiated early in the process:

- to identify reasonable development alternatives to be considered in the environmental document;
- to identify environmental/socioeconomic issues of concern related to the proposed project; and
- to determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable government 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.

Identified Resource Management Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

The major issues related to the modified drilling program for the Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Development

Project identified to date include the potential differences in impacts to resources previously analyzed.

Interim Drilling Activities

While the Modified Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Project EA is being prepared, the BLM will allow development to continue under the drilling program as approved in the June 1998 Decision Record for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of Intoil, Inc.'s Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Development Project. BLM will also allow limited development (two federal pilot test wells) to assess the effectiveness of a 20-acre spacing for wells completed in the sandstones in the Lower Fort Union/Lance Formations.

Interdisciplinary Team

Based on the current understanding of issues, concerns, and opportunities and established objectives from the previous analysis, an interdisciplinary team (IDT) made up of the following specialists and skills has been identified:

- Air Quality Specialist;
- Archaeologist;
- Environmental Protection Specialist (surface protection);
- Geologist;
- Hydrologist;
- Interdisciplinary Team Leader;
- Petroleum Engineer;
- Public Affairs Specialist;
- Range Management Specialist;
- Realty Specialist;
- Recreation Planner;
- Soil Scientist
- Wildlife Biologist.

Timing Needs and Requirements

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. 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, mitigative opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Your comments are due by July 31, 2002. Please submit your comments to:

Address: Linda Slone, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604

Email: casper_wymail@blm.gov

(Please refer to the Modified Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Project in your response.)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following agencies, companies, individuals and organizations participated in the original Environmental Assessment (EA) of Intoil, Inc.'s Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Development Project and will receive a copy of this scoping statement. A press release also appeared in the Casper Star Tribune on June 7, 2002, requesting input from the general public on the project.

Bruce Hinchey	Pronghorn Archaeological Services
Double Eagle	SST Energy Corporation
Frontier Well Service	Thunderbasin Environmental Consulting
Governor Jim Geringer	Ty Perkins
Greg Mohl	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Halliburton Energy Services	U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin
Hose & Rubber Supply	U.S. Senator Mike Enzi
Inter-Mountain Pipe Company	U.S. Senator Craig Thomas
J.W. MacGuire	Weatherford Enterra
Kit Jennings	Wyoming Oil & Gas Commission
Kinder Morgan	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Mike Kozimka	Wyoming Office of State Lands & Investments
Murie Audubon Society	Office of Federal Land Policy
Natrona County Assessor's Office	Wyoming Outdoor Council
Natrona County Development	Dept U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Natrona County Commissioners	U.S. Forest Service
Pauline Hitt	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Petroleum Assn. of Wyoming	Wyoming Department of Transportation
Prima Oil & Gas Company	SWACO
Wyoming State Historical Preservation Office	

Consultation with the following Native American Tribes is also occurring.

Shoshone Tribal Council	Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
Arapaho Business Council	Crow Tribal Council
Southern Cheyenne/Southern Arapaho Tribal Offices	Oglala Sioux Tribal Administration

[Top of Page](#)