

**SCOPING NOTICE**  
**For**  
**International Petroleum and Exploration Operating Corporation**  
**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO DRILL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Lander Field Office**  
**June 27, 2013**

**Background**

A proposal has been submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander Field Office for an Application for Permit to Drill. International Petroleum and Exploration Operating Corporation (IPEOC) proposes to vertically drill a gas production well to 14,500 feet on BLM surface approximately ten miles southeast of Jeffrey City, Wyoming. IPEOC proposes to deploy a drilling rig and construction related trucks, equipment and ground crews on BLM surface. This notice is to inform the public that the BLM Lander Field Office will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposed project. The purpose of the Environmental Assessment is to determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be necessary.

The proposed project area is located approximately ten miles southeast of Jeffrey City, in eastern Fremont County, Wyoming, and is within the administrative boundary of the BLM Lander Field Office.

**Description of Proposed Project**

International Petroleum and Exploration Operating Company (IPEOC) filed an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) with the BLM Lander Field Office on November 1, 2007. The specific proposal is to vertically drill a gas well on BLM Surface in Section 35, Township 28 North, Range 92 West, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Fremont County, Wyoming, on BLM Federal Oil and Gas Lease WYW-131797. The project would be located on Green Mountain, and would require surface disturbance and disruptive activities associated with the drilling rig and construction related equipment. The proposed project is not located within BLM Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area. IPEOC's proposed Green Mountain Federal No. 1 Gas Well project consists of the following operational activities:

- Upgrade and construct approximately 2.6 miles (1.2 miles on BLM and 1.4 miles on State surface) of new access road
- Construct one regular shaped 4.4 acre well pad on BLM surface
- Utilize approximately 35 semi-trailer loads of drilling related and construction related equipment and materials to facilitate the operation
- Remove some lodgepole pine on BLM surface for access road and well pad construction

Production and metering facilities will be located on the well location. No project related pipelines are currently proposed. The project activities would begin with construction of a new access road and drilling of the gas well.

It is estimated that the well pad and associated access road and all other new project disturbance would result in a potential maximum initial surface disturbance of approximately 14 acres. Short-term impacts to surface resources from the proposed project are expected to last three to five years. All areas of new disturbance not needed for the duration of project operations will be reclaimed per BLM specifications.

Long-term surface disturbance resulting from the proposed project is estimated to be approximately ten acres. The anticipated duration of the proposed project is approximately 20 years.

### **Identified Resource Management Issues and Concerns**

The following issues and concerns for the project have been identified. This list is not meant to be an all-inclusive list, but rather a starting point for further public input and a means of identifying the resource disciplines needed to conduct the analysis.

- Potential impacts to wildlife habitat within the analysis area, including Elk Crucial Winter Range and Parturition Areas, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, greater sage-grouse, raptors, migratory birds and other BLM Wyoming Sensitive Species.
- Potential impacts to surface and groundwater resources
- Potential impacts to air quality due to increased traffic, emissions, construction and production activities
- Potential impacts to vegetation
- Potential impacts to visual resources
- Potential impacts to recreation resources
- Reclamation of disturbed areas and control of noxious weeds
- Potential cumulative impacts to resources from the proposed project when combined with other ongoing development in the area

### **Public Involvement**

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate throughout the Environmental Assessment process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed or mitigated, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

The BLM can best utilize comments and resource information if submitted before the close of the public scoping period (June 27, 2013 – July 26, 2013). Please submit written comments to:

Bureau of Land Management  
Lander Field Office (c/o Andrew Gibbs)  
1335 Main Street  
Lander, WY 82520

Comments may also be submitted electronically to: [lander\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:lander_wymail@blm.gov).

Please note that comments, 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, phone number, 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 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 additional information regarding this project is required, please contact Andrew Gibbs at the above e-mail, street address or phone 307-332-8487.