



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Rock Springs Field Office  
280 Highway 191 North  
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901-3447



Monell Enhanced  
Oil Recovery Project  
WY-040-EA05-161

July 8, 2005

Dear Reader:

Attached is a copy of the Notice of Scoping for the *Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Monell Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Project, Sweetwater, Wyoming*. The project proponent will be Anadarko Petroleum Corporation. The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has determined that an EA is required for the proposed potential drilling of a maximum of 126 wells; 47 on public, 77 on private and 3 on state lands as part of the Monell EOR project area.

Please contact Project Lead Darlene Horsey at the BLM Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, WY 82901; call (307) 352-0256; or e-mail [Darlene\\_Horsey@blm.gov](mailto:Darlene_Horsey@blm.gov), if you have any questions or concerns about this proposal.

Sincerely,

John MacDonald  
Assistant Field Manager,  
Minerals & Lands

Attachement

1. Notice of Scoping

**MONELL ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY PROJECT**  
**Anadarko Petroleum Corporation**

**Description of Project**

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (Anadarko) has notified the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office regarding a proposal to develop an Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Project in the Patrick Draw Field Monell Unit (Monell). Anadarko proposes to drill a maximum of 126 wells; 47 on public, 77 on private and 3 on state lands as part of the project. The EOR process would be accomplished using tertiary recovery methods involving carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) flooding. The proposed Monell EOR Project area is generally located in Sections 33, 34, and 36, Township 19 North, Range 99 West; Sections 30 and 31, Township 19 North, Range 98 West; Sections 1 – 4 and 10 – 15, Township 18 North, Range 99 West; Section 6, Township 18 North, Range 98 West, 6<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian, Sweetwater County, Wyoming (see attached map).

The Monell EOR project would occur in an existing oil and gas production area of the Monell Unit, which contains a mixture of private, state, and public lands administered by the BLM, Rock Springs Field Office. The total project area encompasses 10,120 acres, of which approximately 4,457 acres (44 percent of the total area) are federal surface and minerals, approximately 649 acres (6 percent of the total area) are state lands, and approximately 5,014 acres (50 percent of the total area) are private surface and minerals. Overall disturbance on federal land would be approximately 385 acres initially and 89 acres after preliminary reclamation.

The Monell Unit was formed in 1964. In total, 146 producing wells have been drilled and developed. In addition, 123 non-producing wells have been plugged, abandoned, or reclaimed. Of the remaining 23 wells, 9 are active in production and 14 are monitoring wells. Existing infrastructure consists of access roads, pipelines, storage tanks, producing oil and gas wells, and other surface facilities which will be utilized to the maximum extent possible. To date, oil production in the Monell Unit has resulted from primary and secondary production methods. As of the first quarter of 2005, CO<sub>2</sub> flooding has been used in 79 active wells. In total, a maximum of 126 wells would be drilled and developed over a 3- to 6-year period with project life extending for over 20 years.

**Proposed Operations**

Access into the field would be provided by U.S. Interstate 80 (I-80), Sweetwater County roads (CR) No. 4-24 and CR 4-19, and existing lease roads. Development of the 126 wells would require the construction (upgrading) of approximately 127 miles of access roads and gathering lines (facility corridors). An estimated 12 miles of new roads

would be built on federal land and 20 miles of roads would be built on private or state land.

Ancillary facilities would include oil, gas, and water gathering lines; a power source; a central gathering/treating/metering facility (Main Gathering Battery); recycle compressor station within Main Gathering Battery; three test facilities; a Booster compressor station; and an underground electrical distribution system. Existing aboveground power lines would be dismantled.

The approximate size of each well pad would be 360 x 240 feet, including a 100 x 50 feet reserve pit representing an average surface disturbance of 2 acres per well. After reclamation of disturbed areas no longer needed for production, each producing location typically would occupy an area of approximately 1 acre.

It is anticipated to take approximately 8 days to drill, log, and case each well utilizing a conventional rotary drilling rig and associated rig equipment. Six additional days would be required to run a bond log, perforate, fracture, and set a pump with a completion rig. As the project develops, road and infrastructure construction would occur concurrently with well drilling and testing (access roads to a given well would be constructed prior to drilling and testing). Although some level of activity would be continual, peak drilling and construction would be scheduled for the second and third quarters of 2006 but could be earlier or later depended on circumstances.

Production collection lines for in-field fluid collection (gathering system) would be installed to bring oil/water/gas/CO<sub>2</sub> from individual well sites to the Central Gathering Facility (CGF) and the interconnect pipeline. Production collection lines would generally be located adjacent to roads or under the access road travel ways, where feasible, and all necessary authorizing actions for the lines would be addressed prior to installation. A total of approximately 95 miles of oil, gas, CO<sub>2</sub> and water collection and CO<sub>2</sub> injection lines would be installed.

A CO<sub>2</sub> recompression facility would be constructed within the Main Battery area, located in Section 35, Township 19 North, Range 99 West, on private lands. Anadarko plans to install 1,750 horsepower (hp) during the initial portion of the project, and up to 16,500 hp at full development. Compression horsepower would be electric powered. Methane and CO<sub>2</sub> from the exploration area would be delivered to the compressor station via gas gathering lines. Once the gas reaches the compressor station, dehydration units would remove residual water from the gas, and this water would be evaporated from the dehydration unit.

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

Resource Management Plan. The document which directs management of federal lands within the Rock Springs Field Office is the approved Decision Record of 1997, Green River Resource Management Plan (GRRMP). The objective for management of oil and gas resources, as stated in the GRRMP, is to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of oil and gas while protecting other resource values. In addition, the GRRMP states that public lands within the project area are open to mineral leasing and development in order to promote mineral recovery on behalf of the United States, along with appropriate mitigation of disturbance on a case-by-case basis.

The development of natural oil within the Monell Unit area is in conformance with the GRRMP. The environmental analysis that will be prepared for the proposed Monell EOR Project area will incorporate decisions, terms, and conditions of use as described in the GRRMP.

Use Authorizations. Use authorizations (e.g., rights-of-way, permits, etc.) for roads, powerlines, pipelines, and well site facilities would be processed through the BLM Applications for Permits to Drill (APD) and Sundry Notices as long as the appropriate facilities remain on the applicable federal lease and are owned and operated by the unit operator. Any facility located outside a federal lease would require individual rights-of-way permits.

Lease Stipulations. Some federal oil and gas leases within the proposed area may include special stipulations concerning occupancy. These stipulations are in addition to the standard lease terms and are designed to protect surface resources (such as soils, water, and wildlife) by restricting periods of activity and areas of disturbance. Application of these lease stipulations will be handled on a case-by-case basis for each APD submitted to the BLM.

## **National Environmental Policy Act**

The proposed project will be analyzed in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To comply with NEPA and applicable Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (which implement NEPA), the BLM is required to prepare an environmental analysis. The environmental document will serve several purposes. It will: **(A)** provide the public and governmental agencies with information about the potential environmental consequences of the project and alternatives; **(B)** identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the project and alternatives; and **(C)** provide the responsible official with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project.

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

1. identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental analysis;
2. identify issues of environmental concern related to the proposed project; and
3. determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document.

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.

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

As of this date, the following issues and concerns have been identified by an interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists. The issues identified below are not meant to be all-inclusive, but rather a starting point for public input:

- Potential increased traffic and associated impacts on existing county, state, and BLM roads.
- Potential socio-economic impacts to local communities.
- Potential impacts to surface and groundwater resources, including sedimentation/salinity to the Colorado River system.
- Potential impacts from emissions resulting from additional drilling and production activities.
- Potential impacts related to reclamation of disturbed areas and control of noxious weed invasions.
- Potential conflicts with livestock management operations in the analysis area, including possible impacts to range improvement projects.
- Potential impacts to cultural and historical values within the analysis area.
- Potential impacts to wildlife habitats within the analysis area, including big game and raptors.
- Potential impacts to the Salt Wells Wild Horse Herd Management Area and wild horses.
- Potential impacts to threatened, endangered, or candidate plant and animal species, including potential Colorado River depletion and effects on downstream listed fish species.

- Potential cumulative effects of drilling and development activities when combined with other ongoing and proposed developments on lands adjacent to the Bitter Creek project area.
- Potential conflicts between mineral development activities and recreational opportunities.

### ***Interdisciplinary Team***

Based on current understanding of issues, concerns, and opportunities, and established objectives from other plans, an interdisciplinary team made up of the following specialists has been tentatively identified:

Interdisciplinary Team Leader:

Air Quality Specialist

Soil Scientist

Range Management Specialist

Archeologist

Geologist

Realty Specialist

Recreation Planner

Wild Horse Specialist

Hydrologist

Petroleum Engineer

Wildlife Biologist

Socioeconomic Specialist

Environmental Scientist (surface protection)

Public Affairs Specialist

### ***Timing Needs or 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 identify the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed actions, 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. It would best serve our needs for a concentrated analysis if you would have all comments returned but not limited to the due date listed below.

Comments are due by August 8, 2005. Please submit your comments to:

Address: Darlene Horsey, Project Lead  
BLM - Rock Springs Field Office  
280 Highway 191 North  
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Email: rock\_springs\_wymail@blm.gov (Please add "Monell EOR Project" in the Subject line)

**Initial Mailing List:**

The Scoping Notice initial mailing distribution includes the following agencies, individuals, industries, organizations and media:

**Government Offices**

Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office (910, 912, 920, 930)  
Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office  
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8  
Office of the Governor  
U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Wyoming State Agencies  
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Cheyenne, Green River)

**Elected and Other Officials**

Mayors of Rock Springs, Green River, Wamsutter and Superior, Wyoming  
State Senators: Rae Lynn Job, Tex Boggs, Grant Larson, Stan Looper  
State Representatives: Stephen Watt, Marty Martin, Pete Jorgensen, John Hastert, Bill Thompson  
Sweetwater County Commissioners  
Sweetwater County Planner  
Sweetwater County Libraries (Green River and Rock Springs, Wyoming)  
U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin (Bonnie Cannon, Representative)  
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (Lyn Shanaghy, Representative)  
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas (Pati Smith, Representative)

### **Public Land Users and User Groups**

Rock Springs Grazing Association

People for the West

Petroleum Association of Wyoming

Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States

Native American Tribes: Eastern Shoshone, Northern Ute, Northern Arapaho and Shoshone-Bannock

Sierra Club (Northern Plains Representative)

Southwest Wyoming Industrial Association

Wilderness Society

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

National Wildlife Federation

Wyoming Wildlife Federation

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists

Wyoming Outdoor Council

Wyoming Public Lands Council

Wyoming State Grazing Board

Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club

Environmental Defense Fund

Biodiversity Conservation Alliance

### **Newspapers**

Pinedale Roundup

Sublette Examiner

Kemmerer Gazette

Rock Springs Daily Rocket-Miner

Casper Star-Tribune

Green River Star

Wyoming State Journal

Uinta County Herald

### **Radio Stations**

KRKK/KQSW/KSIT - Rock Springs

KUGR/KYCS/KFRZ - Green River and Rock Springs

KMER – Kemmerer

KRAL - Rawlins

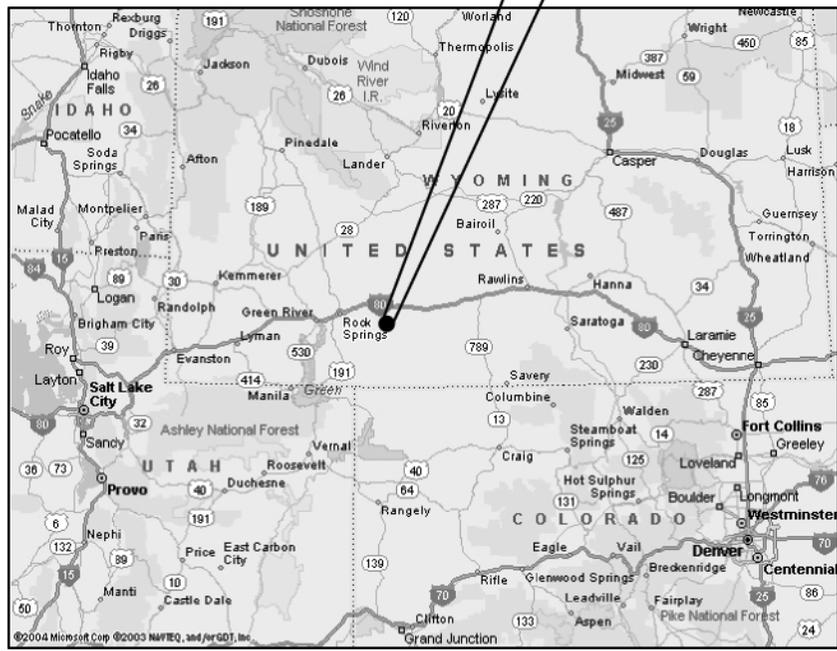
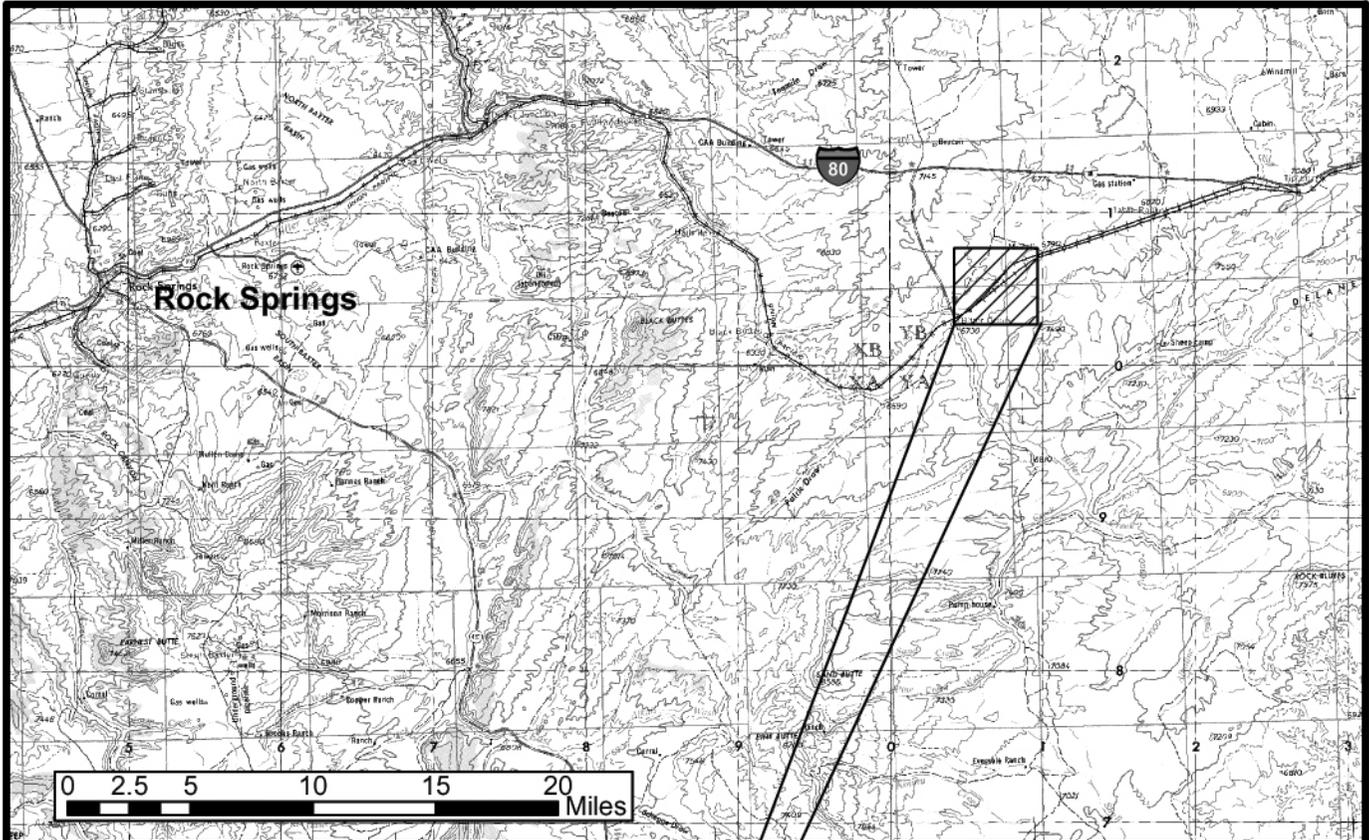
KUWR - University of Wyoming

### **Television Stations**

KTWO-TV - Casper

KCWY-TV - Casper

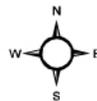
KWFY-TV - Casper  
KGWC-TV - Casper



**Legend**

 Project Area

**SH** State Highway



**Anadarko Monell  
EOR Project**

Project Location

