

SCOPING STATEMENT

Sellers Draw 3-D Geophysical Project

**Bill Barrett Corporation,
and
Bureau of Land Management, Worland Field Office**

Description of Project

Bill Barrett Corporation has filed a Notice of Intent with the Worland Field Office to conduct a 3-D geophysical exploration project in a 42-square-mile area in T. 47 and 48 N., R. 98 and 99 W., in Park and Hot Springs Counties, Wyoming. (See map.)

The project would use a mixed-source methodology combining vibroseis for the majority of sources, with heliportable and buggy drill holes where topographically required. The pattern would use a 220' source interval with a 2200' source line interval, resulting in a density of 62 source points per square mile. Shotholes would be 40' and loaded with 10 pounds of Vibrogel explosive. Operations would begin upon approval and are expected to take 60-90 days to complete.

The project area comprises approximately 66% public lands, 7% state of Wyoming, and 27% private.

Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents

The document which directs management of federal lands within the project area is the Grass Creek Resource Management Plan (GCRMP) and Record of Decision approved in 1998.

The GCRMP states that, "All parts of the planning area that are open to consideration of oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development are open to consideration for geophysical exploration subject to appropriate mitigation ...".

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, which implement NEPA, the BLM is required to prepare an environmental analysis. The environmental document will serve several purposes. It will provide both the public and governmental agencies with information about the potential environmental consequences of the project and alternatives; identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the project and alternatives; and provide the responsible official with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project. The document will be prepared by an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) of BLM resource experts.

One essential element of the NEPA process is scoping. Scoping activities 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 sale;
- determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document; and
- identify potential mitigation.

This scoping statement has been prepared to describe means by which governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties may 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

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, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Please submit your comments to:

Holly Elliott, Project Manager

BLM – Worland Field Office

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Worland, WY 82401

307.347.5193

E-mail: worland_wymail@blm.gov

(Please include “Sellers Draw Scoping Comments” in the Subject line.)

Project documents and information can be found at: <http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/wfodocs/sellers>

Bill Hill, Field Manager

Bureau of Land Management

Worland Field Office

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