

SCOPING NOTICE
Pacific Creek Federal B3-33 Temporary Surface Natural Gas Pipeline
Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office

October 19, 2001

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office, is considering a proposal for a temporary surface pipeline. The enclosed document describes the proposal and serves as notice of the beginning of the environmental analysis process to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. If you have concerns, issues, or alternatives you would like to see addressed in the analysis, please respond in accordance with the instructions below.

Important Notice: You must include your full name and address, which must be legible, to have your comments considered regardless of the method used to comment. Any letters or emails received without names and addresses, or that are illegible, or where names and/or addresses are obviously false will not be opened or considered.

Comments are due by November 19, 2001 and must be submitted to:

Address: Teri Deakins, Project Manager
 Rock Springs Field Office
 280 Highway 191 North
 Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Email: rock_springs_wymail@blm.gov
 (reference **B3-33 Pipeline** in the subject field)

Written comments in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Rock Springs office during regular business hours (7:45-4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday (except federal holidays) after the comment period closes and may be published as part of the environmental process. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently 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, please call Teri Deakins at 307-352-0211 or Patricia Hamilton at 307-352-0334.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ted Murphy
Assistant Field Manager

Enclosure

SCOPING NOTICE

Pacific Creek Federal B3-33 Temporary Surface Natural Gas Pipeline Bureau of Land Management Rock Springs Field Office

Description of Project

Shell Western E and P, Limited Partnership (SWEPI LP) has submitted an application for a right-of-way (ROW) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office, proposing to construct and place a 6-inch outside diameter temporary surface pipeline from the Pacific Creek Federal #B3-33 well site located in the SW1/4NE1/4 of section 33, T 27N, R103W, 6th Principal Meridian (P.M.), Sublette County, Wyoming to a connection with an existing gas pipeline at the Buccaneer Unit #1 well location in the SW1/4SE1/4 of section 32, T26N, R102W, 6th P.M., Sweetwater County, Wyoming as shown on the Map. The temporary pipeline will serve as an interim transportation system during initial testing and evaluation phase of operations for the Pacific Creek #B3-33 well and other wells that may be drilled on federal lease WYW-147486. Should testing prove commercially viable, a buried permanent pipeline will be required (same route would not be likely).

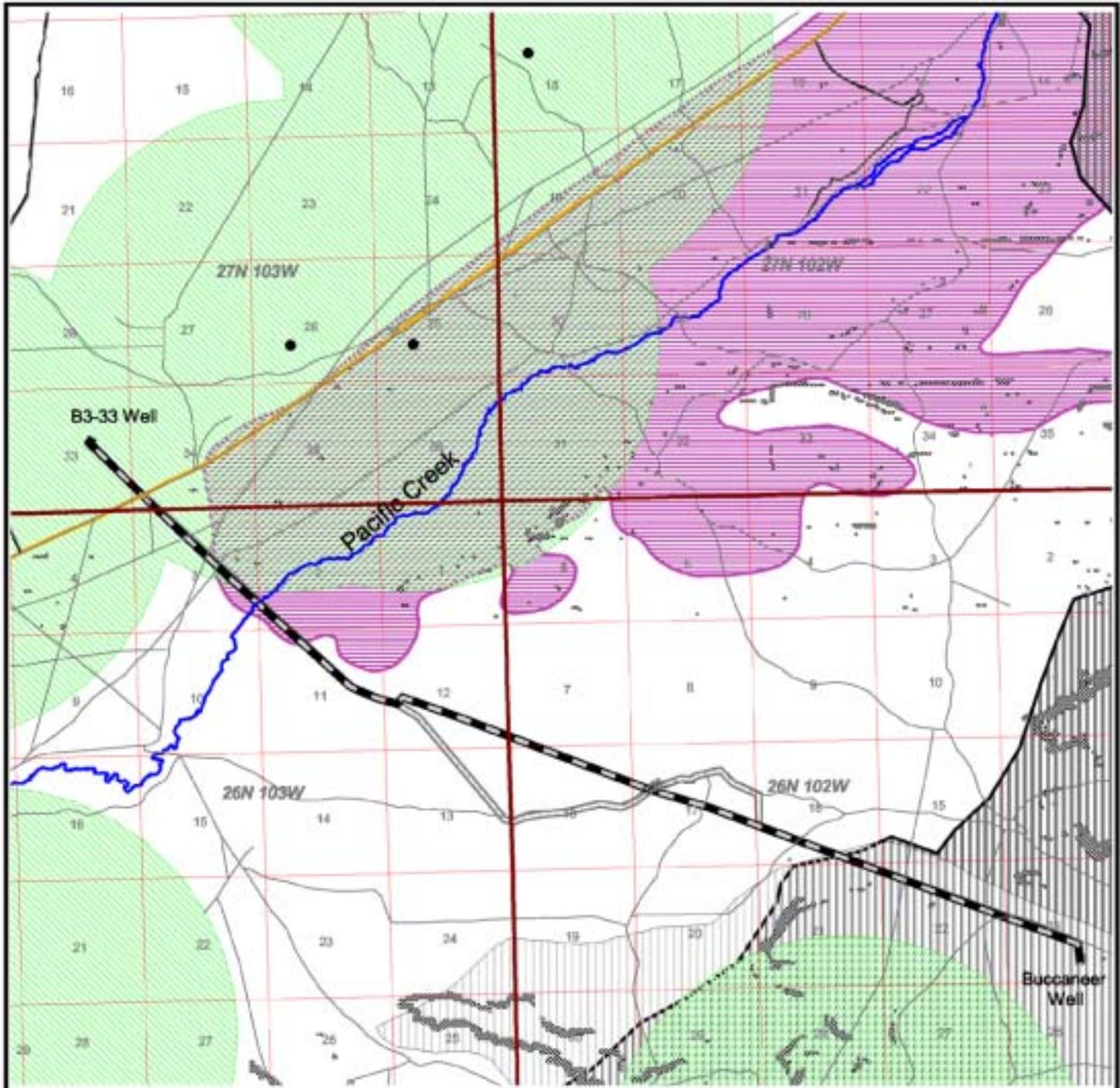
Length of the proposed temporary pipeline ROW is 45,300 feet, width is 30 feet, and the term of the ROW is for 5 years. Wyoming Highway 28 will be crossed by boring under the highway in accordance with Wyoming Department of Transportation guidelines for bored crossings. Temporary work areas of approximately 100 x 100 feet on each side of the highway will be required. Total area directly affected by the proposal is 31.71 acres. Other than the two temporary work areas within or adjacent to the Highway 28 corridor and burying the pipeline where it crosses two-track trails or roads, no disturbance to the surface is proposed.

Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents

Green River Resource Management Plan (approved August 8, 1997) - The Green River Resource Management Plan (GRRMP) provides management direction for resources contained within the Rock Springs Field Office area. The management objective for realty is to provide ROWs for the transportation of energy resources while protecting other resource values. The environmental analysis done for this project will incorporate appropriate decisions, terms, and conditions of use described in the GRRMP.

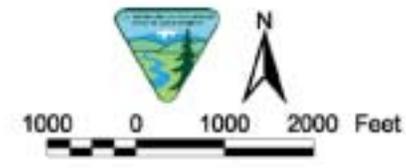
Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan - Routing of the proposed pipeline will cross certain lands under analysis for the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan (JMHCAP). The GRRMP identifies avoidance criteria that 'surface-disturbing' interim actions proposed outside of the 'core area' must not affect in order to be considered or approved during the land use planning process. These criteria include:

- a. Slopes greater than 20%.
- b. Forest-type areas such as juniper, limber pine, and aspen.
- c. Tall sagebrush habitat (sagebrush 4 feet high or taller).



Pacific Creek B3-33 Temporary Surface Pipeline

- Allroads
- Rsfroads
- BLM
- County
- Interstate Freeway
- Private
- State
- US hwy
- Slope**
- >20
- Perennial-str
- Shellpipe10-15-01.shp
- Shell-pipelin
- Sagegrouse
- Sagegrouse-2m
- Crucial-elk
- Connectivity
- Sopassacec



- d. Badland areas.
- e. All mountain shrub communities such as mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, and serviceberry (usually associated with 20% slopes).
- f. All big game severe winter relief/crucial winter range areas and big game birthing areas.
- g. Other sensitive areas or situations that may be identified.

South Pass Historic Landscape Area of Critical Environmental Concern - The proposed temporary pipeline route would affect the western fringe (portions of sections 2, 3, and 11, T26N, R103W) of the South Pass Historic Landscape Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Management objective is to protect the visual and historical integrity of the historic trails and surrounding viewscape. The ACEC is managed as a Class II visual resource management area. Actions such as temporary surface pipelines may be allowed as long as analysis indicates that the visual integrity of the area will not be compromised.

National Environmental Policy Act Compliance (NEPA)

The proposed temporary surface transportation pipeline is subject to the appropriate level of environmental analysis. To comply with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations which implement NEPA, BLM is required to conduct an environmental analysis.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable government agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for the NEPA document.

Identified Resource Management Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

The following issues have been tentatively identified as potentially affected by the proposed pipeline:

- JMHCAP planning area
- South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC
- Class II VRM (associated with South Pass ACEC)
- Perennial and intermittent stream crossings and associated riparian and wetland areas
- Highway 28 crossing
- Slope in excess of 20%
- Sage grouse nesting habitat
- Elk crucial winter range
- Elk connectivity area
- Mountain plover habitat
- Sensitive plant and animal species
- Geologic hazards, wind-blown sand

Timing Needs or Requirements

Public input is important in establishing the scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate during the scoping process to help identify the scope of the 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.

Important Notice: You must include your full name and address, which must be legible, to have your

comments considered regardless of the method used to comment. Any letters or emails received without names and addresses, or that are illegible, or where names and/or addresses are obviously false will not be opened or considered.

Comments are due by November 19, 2001. Please submit your comments to:

Address: Teri Deakins, Project Manager
BLM - Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Email: rock_springs_wymail@blm.gov
(Please refer to **B3-33 Pipeline** in the subject line)

Public Participation

The following individuals and organizations received a copy of this scoping statement:

FEDERAL OFFICES

USDI Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, Pinedale Field Office, Lander Field Office
U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin
U.S. Senators Mike Enzi and Craig Thomas
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers
U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

STATE AGENCIES

Governor Jim Geringer
Affected State Senators and Representatives:
State Senator Mark O. Harris
State Senator Delaine Roberts
State Representative John Eyre
State Representative Louie Tomassi
State of Wyoming Clearing House for the following agencies:
Wyoming Federal Land Office
State Engineers Office
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
Wyoming Business Council
Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Sweetwater and Sublette County Commissioners
Sweetwater and Sublette County School Districts
Sweetwater and Sublette County Planning Commission
Public Libraries in Green River, Rock Springs, Pinedale

MUNICIPALITIES

Mayors of Green River, Rock Springs, Pinedale, and Superior

NATIVE AMERICAN GROUPS

Native American Tribes including:

- Eastern Shosone
- Shoshone-Bannock
- Northern Aparpaho
- Northern Ute

GRAZING PERMITTEES

Grazing permittees in the Little Prospect and Pacific Creek Allotments

LEASE, ROW, AND LAND OWNERS

- True Oil
- Coastal Chemical Inc
- Stanley Energy
- HS Resources
- WYDOT
- Questar Gas Management
- Universal Equipment Company
- Pacific Power and Light

MEDIA

- Casper Star-Tribune
- Rock Springs Rocket Miner
- Green River Star KGWC TV - Casper
- KQSW/KRKK - Rock Springs
- KSIT - Rock Springs
- KTWO - Casper
- KUWR - University of Wyoming
- KTWO TV - Casper
- KMKX - Rock Springs
- KUGR - Green River
- KYCS - Rock Springs
- Wyoming, NPR - Laramie

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- Audubon Society
- Wilderness Society
- The Nature Conservancy
- Independent Petroleum Association
- Petroleum Association of Wyoming
- Public Lands Advocacy
- Sierra Club
- Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
- OCTA
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Southwest Wyoming Mule Deer Foundation
- Fund for Animals
- Pony Express Trail Association
- Mormon Trails Association

Wyoming Stockgrowers Association
Wyoming Wildlife Federation
Wyoming Woolgrowers Association
Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Wyoming Association of Professional Archeologists
Wyoming Advocates for Animals
Humane Society of United States,
Biodiversity Associates-Friends of the Bow
Predator Project
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Public Lands Council