



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Price Field Office
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Price, Utah 84501
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JUL 22 2003

File Code
3150
UT-070

Jim Dykmann
State Historic Preservation Office
Division of State History
300 Rio Grande
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1182

Dear Mr. Dykmann:

This letter is to initiate consultation on the Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC) Stone Cabin 3 D Seismic Project which encompasses 57,500 acres in portions of Township 12 South, Range 14 through 17 East and Township 13 South, Range 15 to 17 East of northeastern Carbon County, Utah (see enclosed map). Also enclosed for your information is a brief overview of the project.

A Class I and III inventory has been completed by TRC Mariah, State Project No.-U-02-ME-0564 b, s (see enclosed reports for both the eastern and western areas). A total of 48 newly discovered cultural resource sites were recorded. The Class I file search revealed that 63 archaeological sites have been previously recorded in the vicinity of the project area. All cultural resource sites are being treated as eligible for purposes of this project. Cultural resource sites identified in the 100-foot wide inventory corridor have been flagged for avoidance and all seismic exploration activities have been routed to avoid cultural resources.

Of the 110 known cultural resource sites in the project area, 31 are prehistoric structures and rock art sites. Approximately eleven (11) of these sites are potentially located within 300 feet of a vibrator buggy shake point locations within Dry and Jack Canyons. To avoid potential vibration impacts, the shake points would be bypassed and the vibrator buggies would move on to the next source/shake point on the existing road. The proponent has also committed to avoid any known cultural sites with standing architecture and rock art by 300 feet for vibroseis testing and 300 feet for shot hole charge detonation of 20 pounds at 60 feet and 200 feet for shot hole detonation of 10 pounds at 50 feet. A BLM permitted archaeologist will verify these locations and distances for site avoidance. In addition, permitted archaeologists will be monitoring activities in the Nine Mile Canyon Special Recreation and Cultural Management Area (SRCMA boundary on enclosed map).

It is our finding that no historic properties will be affected (36CFR800.4 (d)(1)) by the proposed project. We request your review and concurrence within 30 days. If you have any questions, please contact Julie McGee at (801) 539-4067 or Mark Mackiewicz, PMP, Project Manager, at (435) 636-3616.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gubbins
Field Manager

Enclosures (3)

1. Maps of area (2)
2. Project overview sheet
3. Cultural Reports

PROJECT OVERVIEW
STONE CABIN 3D SEISMIC SURVEY PROJECT
Bureau of Land Management Price Field Office

The Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC) of Denver, Colorado proposes to image the subsurface geologic formations and conditions to aid in determining the possible presence of oil and natural gas resources in an 90 square mile area (approximately 57,500 acres) (Project Area) of federal, state, and private lands located in northeastern Carbon County, Utah (see attached Figure 1-1 from the draft EA). At BBC's request, the Dawson Geophysical Company (DGC) has submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Conduct Oil and Gas Exploration Operations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Price Field Office. The NOI dated May 29, 2002 communicates DGC's proposal to conduct a three-dimensional (3D) geophysical exploration or seismic survey of the Project Area to test for the presence of hydrocarbon resources. The BLM officially posted the proposed project on the Electronic Notification Bulletin Board (ENBB) on January 30, 2003. This survey has been named the Stone Cabin 3D Survey Project after the Stone Cabin Oil Field that is present within the Project Area.

Ownership of surface estate within the Project Area is predominantly federal (89 percent) followed by state (8 percent) and private (2 percent). Ownership of the mineral estate within the Project Area is again predominantly federal (92 percent) followed by state (7 percent) and private (1 percent). Much of the federal mineral estate in the Project Area is leased for oil and gas development and a majority of the leases are held or controlled by BBC. Oil and gas development activity has been ongoing in much of the Project Area since the 1950's.

The exploratory, seismic survey would involve 1) the generation of ground vibrations or seismic waves and 2) the recording of reflected seismic waves at source points and receiver points that would be located throughout the Project Area, respectively. The pattern of reflected seismic waves would be evaluated by geophysicists for potential presence or absence of natural gas or oil. Ground vibrations would be generated by the sequential detonation of underground explosives placed in the bottom of drilled holes (50- and 60-foot depths), and by repeated surface vibroseis-shaking at accessible source points throughout the Project Area. Ground vibrations in the form of sound wave patterns would be recorded at separate, numerous recording points placed by hand on the land's surface as the sound waves reflect from different underground rock formations.

Methods of seismic wave generation would differ across the Project Area based on presence of existing roads, vegetation type, terrain, slope conditions, and other obstacles. As currently proposed, drilling of holes (shot holes) by off-road, flotation-tired buggy-mounted drills and the detonation of explosives (shots) placed in the shot holes would account for approximately 2,487 (46 percent) of the 5,388 source points total. Heli-portable drill rigs would access approximately 2,375 source points (44 percent) on steeper terrain (slopes in excess of 20 percent). The

vibroseis-mounted vehicles (vibrator buggies) would access about 526 source points (10 percent) on roaded, less steep terrain (less than or equal to 15 percent slopes). Significant portions of the Project Area are inaccessible for locating source and receiver points due to the steep topography.

Surface disturbance as a direct result of the seismic operations including shot hole drilling by both buggy drills and heli-portable drills, and establishment of staging areas would total approximately 11.5 acres (0.02 percent) of the estimated 57,500-acre Project Area. The nature of other effects from project implementation would be the temporary evidence of passage and tracking of floatation-tired buggy drills off-road in the Project Area. Vibrator buggy operations and movement would be restricted to existing roads and trails. No construction of new roads, blading of staging areas, or other earth work is proposed.

An environmental assessment (EA) is being prepared by the applicant for the proposed project. The EA will disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives for the geophysical seismic survey. Issues identified during scoping will be used to develop measures to avoid or mitigate impacts. The EA is being prepared under the jurisdiction of the Price BLM Field Office and with BLM guidance.

The seismic survey would begin as soon as all permits have been secured, a *Notice to Proceed* is obtained from the BLM, access stipulations are met, and weather conditions permit. The seismic survey is anticipated to take approximately three months and effects are expected to be temporary (less than one year) to short-term (one to three years) and minimal to moderate in magnitude due to application of applicant-committed and BLM mandated management and mitigation practices. All known/discovered cultural resource sites (past inventories and recent Class III inventory for the proposed project in fall of 2002), including structures and rock art, would be avoided by minimum distances to minimize the potential risk of impact that the project may have on cultural resource sites.



State of Utah

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Division Director

August 7, 2003

Julie McGee
Bureau of Land Management
324 South State Street
Suite 301
Salt Lake City UT 84111

RE: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Dawson Stone Cabin 3-D Seismic Project, Carbon County

In Reply Please Refer to Case No. 02-1320

Dear Ms. McGee:

The Utah State Historic Preservation Office received the referenced information. After consideration of the consultation request in behalf of the Bureau of Land Management, the Utah Preservation Office provides the following comments per §36CFR800.

Identification; concur with identification effort, two reports.

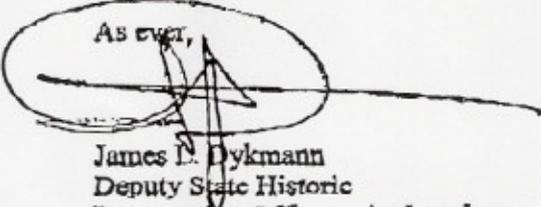
Eligibility; USHPO concurs with the determinations of eligibility with the following exceptions; [CB1753 consider DOE, CB1750 consider DOE, CB1749 consider DOE, CB1729 consider DOE]. The continued use of depth as defining point of eligibility is a problem with the eligibility determinations. Depth is only one factor to consider.

Effect; BLM has committed to an extensive monitoring program with restrictions on vibroseis testing and hole charges. If BLM officials carry out the monitor program recommends a determination of No Adverse Effect based on monitoring plans and restrictions.

The BLM may be aware that those opposed to the project are indicating that the stipulations recommended in this consultation letter are not being followed. USHPO's

consultation concerning No Adverse Effect is based on the stipulations outlined in the July 22nd letter.

This information is provided to assist with Section 106 responsibilities as per §36CFR800. My email address is: jdykman@utah.gov

AS EVER,

James L. Dykman
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer - Archaeology

JLD:02-1320 BLM/DOEx21/NPz44/NAEx65

c: Blaine Miller, Bureau of Land Management, Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price UT 84501

c: TRC Mariah Associates, Inc., 136 East South Temple, Suite 1825, SLC UT 84111

TOTAL P. 02