



Famcor Natural Gas Proposal to Drill and Produce the Carroll No. 2 & 3 and 4 & 5 Wells from 1 Existing and 1 Newly Proposed Surface Location Outside the Big Sandy Unit of the Big Thicket National Preserve in Polk County, Texas

Project Scoping for the Environmental Assessment

Sept. 18, 2012

Dear Friend of Big Thicket National Preserve:

The National Park Service (NPS) is reviewing a proposal from the Famcor Oil, Inc. (Famcor) to directionally drill and produce privately held minerals at two surface locations outside Big Thicket National Preserve (BTNP), each having bottom hole targets beneath BTNP. The Famcor Carroll No. 2 & 3 wells would be located on a newly constructed twin well pad sited on private surface approximately 80 feet south (at the nearest point) of the Big Sandy Unit in Polk County, with both bottom hole locations being approximately 5100 feet beneath the unit. The Famcor Carroll No. 4 & 5 well would be located on private surface on an existing well pad (the vertical Carroll No. 1 well pad) approximately 245 feet east (at the nearest point) of the Big Sandy Unit in Polk County with both bottom hole targets approximately 5100 feet beneath the unit. All infrastructure and access for these four wells will be located entirely on private property with no use of BTNP surface.

The purpose of the analysis is twofold: 1) carry out compliance responsibilities under various statutes including the National Environmental Policy Act, and 2) determine whether the directional wells qualify for an exemption under NPS regulation 36 CFR 9.32(e). An exemption may be issued if the NPS determines that the operations pose no significant threat of damage to park resources..." The scope of the latter inquiry is limited to the scope of the regulations which include only those activities occurring within the BTNP boundary.

The NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) explores a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates potential impacts to park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to minimize those impacts.

The NPS encourages public participation throughout the NEPA process during which the public has two opportunities to comment on this project; once during initial project scoping and again following release of the EA. We are currently in the scoping phase of this project, and I invite you to voice your ideas, comments, or concerns about this effort. Your comments will be considered during preparation of the EA.

Sincerely,

Douglas S. Neighbor
Douglas S. Neighbor, Superintendent

Please see Page 3 of this document for a location map of the two proposed Famcor surface locations and four laterals.

Overview of the Process

Project milestones include:

- **Public scoping (closes October 18, 2012)***
- Preparation of the EA
- Public review of the EA*
- Analysis of public comment
- Preparation of decision document
- Announcement of decision on Famcor's Proposal

Bold indicates where we are now;

* indicates opportunities for public comment

Alternatives

Following is the preliminary range of alternatives to be evaluated in the EA:

Alternative 1 – No Action This alternative represents the baseline or benchmark from which to compare the impacts of the action alternatives. In this case, "No-Action" means the proposed project would not take place;

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action – Drill and Produce the Wells as Proposed. Famcor would construct 2 surface locations on private property outside the BTNP and drill four lateral wells beneath the BTNP to produce the privately held (reserve) mineral rights held by Famcor;

Alternative 3 – Acquire the Mineral Estate The NPS would acquire the mineral rights which are part of the proposal;

Alternative 4 – Drill and Produce the Reserve Minerals from Surface Locations Within the Big Sandy Unit. Famcor would develop two new surface locations within the BTNP to drill and produce these minerals.

Resources and Concerns

The EA will analyze potential impacts to:

- Water Resources ● Floodplains and Wetlands
- Fish and Wildlife ● Species of Management Concern
- Geology and Soils ● Vegetation ● Cultural Resources
- Air Quality ● Soundscapes ● Socioeconomics
- Visitor Use and Experience ● Catastrophic Incidents
- Park Operations ● Adjacent Lands ● Lightscapes

Ideas to Consider

Following are a few ideas to keep in mind as you develop your comments on this proposal:

1. Do you have any ideas to share about the alternatives and resources/concerns listed in the scoping brochure, or are there any other issues/concerns about the project that you think we should consider?
2. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered?
3. Do you have other comments and suggestions for us to consider in the EA?

How Do I Comment on This Project?

Please submit your comments online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/bith>

Please provide all comments by October 18, 2012. If you wish to be added to or removed from the Preserve's mailing list for future correspondence, please indicate that in your response.

If you are unable to submit comments electronically through this website, then you may also submit written comments to the address below, Attention: Stephanie Burgess. You may also hand-deliver written comments to the visitor center at Big Thicket National Preserve.

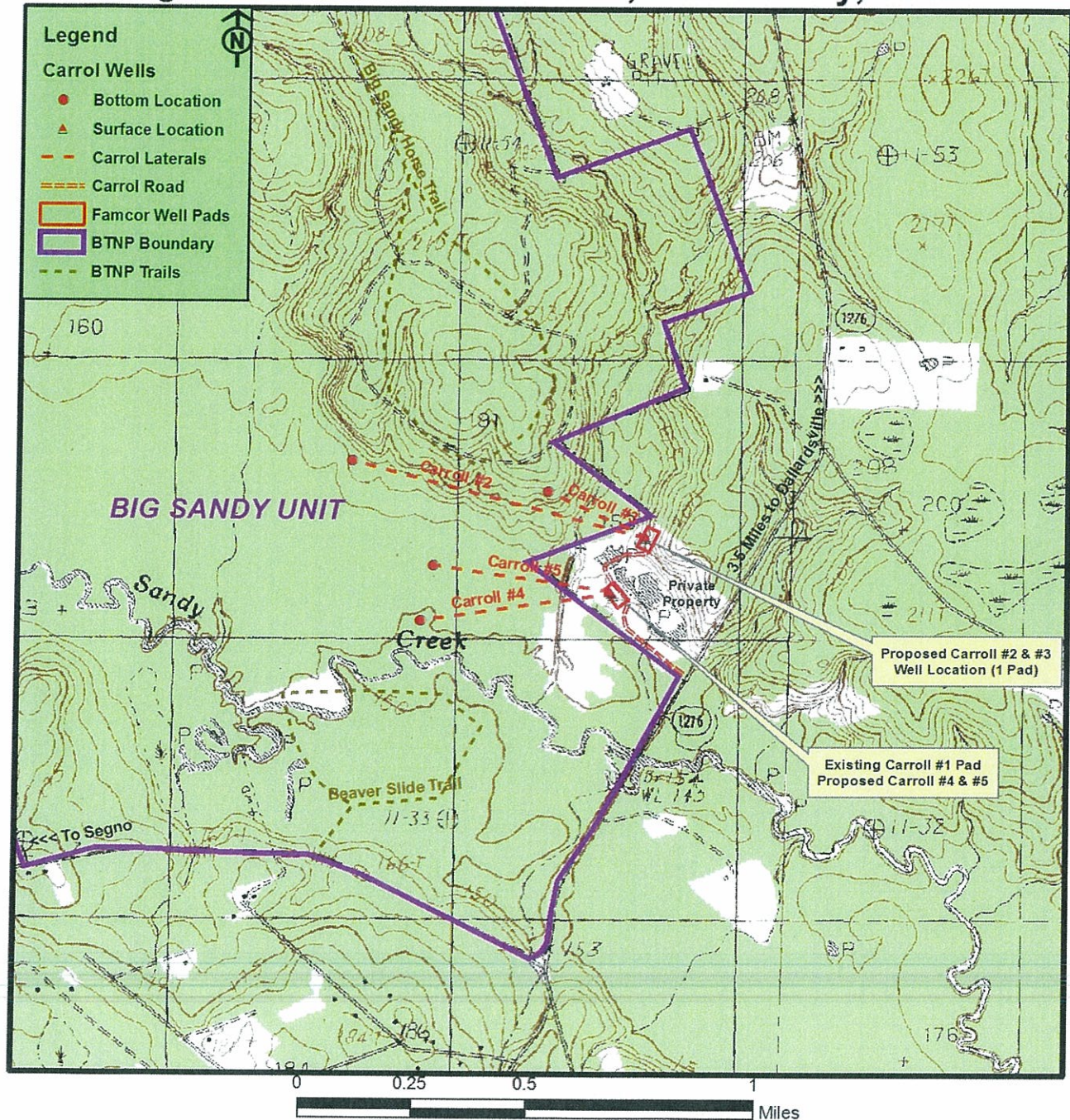
Big Thicket National Preserve
6044 FM 420
Kountze, Texas 77625

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior





FAMCOR OIL, INC. Proposed Carroll Wells on Private Surface With Laterals Beneath the Big Sandy Unit Big Thicket National Preserve, Polk County, Texas



VICINITY MAP - 7.5' SEGNO QUADRANGLE

