



Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Capitol Reef National Park

National Park Service

Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument

Bureau of Land Management



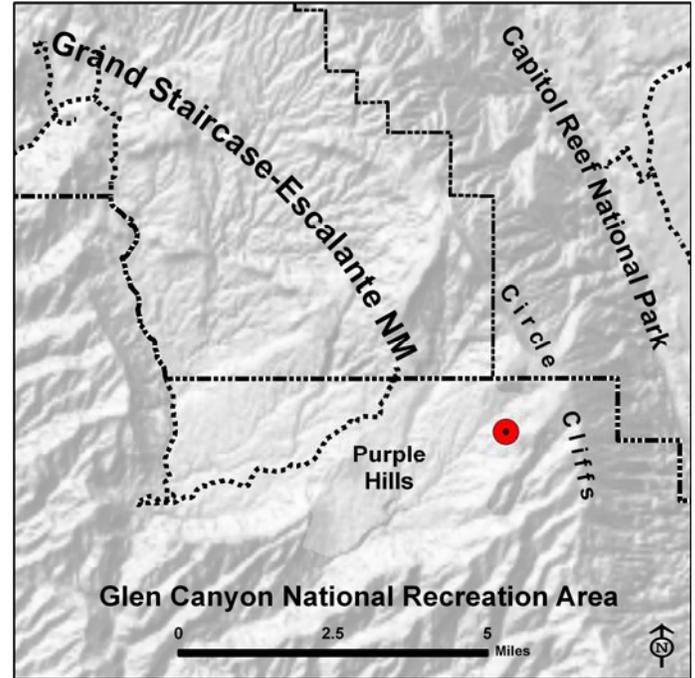
Project Scoping

June 9, 2005

Public Scoping for a proposed petroleum exploration well in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

The outcome of this exploratory well is highly speculative.

The National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) seek the benefit of your comments during a public scoping period to identify issues and alternatives for analysis in an environmental assessment (EA) regarding Viking Exploration, Inc.'s (Viking) proposal to drill and produce an exploration petroleum well. The well would be drilled in the Circle Cliffs area of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA). Access to the 2-acre well site would be over several miles of new or reconstructed roads in the NRA and over existing roads in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. See inset map on the right.



The NPS and BLM are jointly preparing an EA to evaluate the environmental effects of this proposal. Public involvement is a key component in preparing the EA. This public scoping document provides information on the planning process and how you can be involved.

We encourage you to participate in this scoping process.

Sincerely,

Kitty Roberts Superintendent Glen Canyon NRA	Al Hendricks Superintendent Capitol Reef NP	Dave Hunsaker Manager Grand Staircase- Escalante NM
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Overview of the Process

Project milestones include:

- The closing date for the public scoping period has been extended from July 11, 2005 to July 31, 2005
- Preparation of environmental assessment
- Public review of environmental assessment
- Analysis of public comment
- Preparation of decision document
- Announcement of decision

Background

Viking holds a valid existing right in the form of a federal oil and gas lease. BLM, the federal government agent, issued the lease on October 1, 1969. The lease area is about 9730 acres in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Capitol Reef National Park, and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The lease predates the establishment or re-designation of these federal lands. On June 29, 1990, Viking submitted an Application for a Permit to Drill the proposed exploratory well.

The Permit to Drill would be administered by the BLM under the requirements of federal regulations at 43 CFR Part 3100. These regulations require that before consenting to oil and gas development in an NPS unit, the NPS Regional Director must find that the development will not result in a significant adverse effect on the resources or administration of the park units. The EA will examine the effects of this proposed exploratory well.

Should this exploration effort be successful and Viking desires to conduct further exploration and development on this lease, Viking must submit additional proposals for further environment analysis.

What does the scoping period mean? Scoping is done in the initial phase of a project to seek input from a variety of sources. The input is used to identify issues, areas requiring additional study, and topics that will be analyzed in the EA process. This is an opportunity for you to provide us with your suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding this oil and gas project.

Is scoping my only opportunity to comment on the project? No, once the EA is developed, the document will be made available for public review and comment for a 30-day period.

Initial internal project scoping identified the following preliminary lists of issues and concerns, and preliminary range of alternatives for consideration in the EA:

Issues and Concerns

Air quality	Vegetation and Wildlife
Lightscaapes	Threatened & Endangered
Natural soundscapes	and species of concern
Geology, geohazards	Cultural resources
and soils	Visitor use
Water resources	Public Health & Safety
Paleontological resources	Wilderness values

Please submit your scoping comments to the NPS by July 31, 2005:

1. Do you have any information to share about issues/concerns related to this proposed project, or are there any issues/concerns about the project that you think we should consider?
2. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered?
3. If you wish to receive a copy of the environmental assessment when it is released for public review and comment in the winter of 2006, please let us know if you prefer to receive a printed copy, a CD, or notification where you can download the EA.

Current list of Possible Alternatives

- 1) No-Action Alternative. This alternative represents the baseline or benchmark from which to compare the impacts of the proposed project. In this case, "No-Action" means the well would not be drilled;
- 2) Proposed Action. Viking would drill and produce the well from the proposed site;

If you wish to comment on any issues associated with this project, please submit your comments in one of the following ways:

Submit written comments to: Superintendent Glen Canyon National Recreation Area P.O. Box 1507 Page, AZ 86040-1507	Comment by the internet through the National Park Service's Planning, Environmental and Public Comment website at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov	Hand-deliver comments to Glen Canyon NRA headquarters at: 691 Scenic View Drive Page, AZ
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