



Project Scoping

August 15, 2005

Proposal to Conduct the Tyler “Cable-Only” 3-D Seismic Survey in the Upper Neches River Corridor Unit Big Thicket National Preserve Tyler and Jasper Counties, Texas

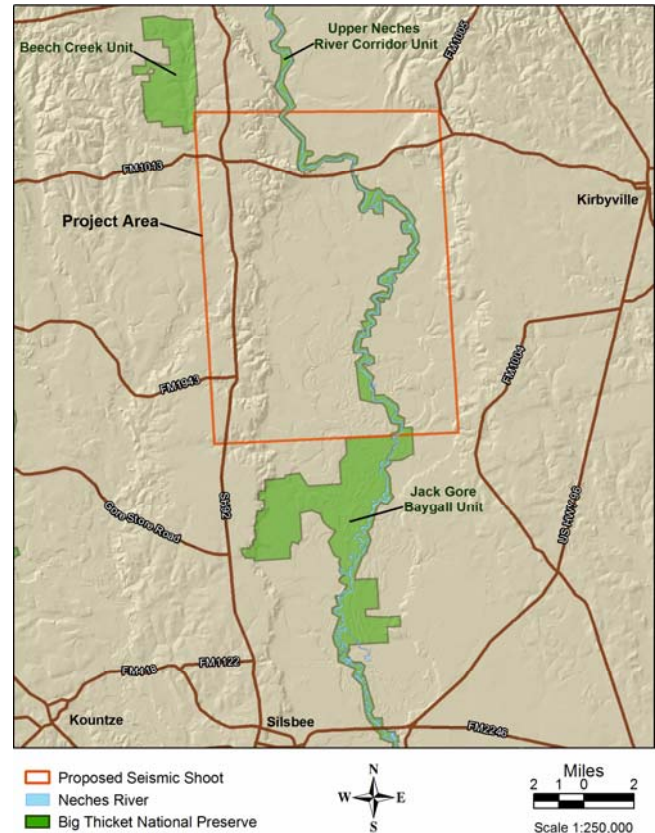
Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. subsection 9.52(a), the Superintendent of Big Thicket National Preserve (Preserve) gives notice that Krescent Energy Company, LLC (Krescent) has proposed to conduct a “cable-only” 3-D seismic survey within the Upper Neches River Corridor Unit (Unit) of the Preserve. The proposed operations area is shown in the inset to the right. When a substantially complete Plan of Operations is received by the Preserve, the Superintendent will publish a notice of availability of the Plan of Operations and associated Categorical Exclusion Form in the *Federal Register* for a 30-day public review period.

Krescent’s proposed “cable-only” seismic survey within the Unit is part of the 127-square mile Tyler 3-D Survey. Krescent proposes to use “cable-only” methodology within the Unit. This means that no shot holes would be drilled and no explosive charges would be detonated within the Unit. Therefore, operations in the Unit would be limited to surveying the receiver lines, laying of cables and geophones to receive and transmit vibration from source points located outside the Preserve, picking up equipment, and cleanup or reclamation. A minimal amount of vegetation would be trimmed to obtain lines of sight for the survey equipment and for single file passage by foot down the receiver lines.

The National Park Service has determined through internal scoping that the proposed operation within the Preserve is not a major federal action, and would have no measurable impacts on the human environment. Therefore, the proposal would qualify for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) under the NPS’s guidelines for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. To view a Categorical Exclusion Form, see <http://www.nature.nps.gov/protectingrestoring/DOR2Site/>.

As the superintendent of Big Thicket National Preserve, I invite you to participate in this scoping process.

Sincerely,
Art Hutchinson



Overview of the Process

Project milestones include:

- Public scoping period (closes August 29, 2005)
- Preparation of Plan/categorical exclusion
- Public review of Plan/categorical exclusion
- Analysis of public comment
- NPS decision on Krescent’s proposal

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 NEPA process. This is an opportunity for you to provide us with your suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding this oil and gas project at Big Thicket National Preserve.

Is scoping my only opportunity to comment on the project? No, once the Plan/CE are developed, the documents will be made available for public review for a 30-day period.

Please let us know by August 29, 2005:

1. Do you have any ideas to share about issues/concerns, or are there any issues/concerns about the project that you think we should consider?
2. Do you have other comments and suggestions for us to consider?

If you wish to comment on the scoping brochure or on any other issues associated with the project, you may submit your comments in the following ways:

- This scoping brochure will be posted to the NPS Planning Environment and Public Comment system or PEPC. You can access the system at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> to submit comments.
- You may also submit written comments to:
Superintendent, Big Thicket National Preserve
3785 Milam Street
Beaumont, Texas 77701
- Finally, you may hand deliver comments to Big Thicket National Preserve.

If you wish to be added to the park's mailing list for this and other announcements, please be sure to indicate that in your response.
