

DO-12 APPENDIX 1
ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM
(REVISED November 2003)

This form should be attached to all documents sent to the regional director's office for signature. Sections A and B should be filled out by the project initiator (may be coupled with other park project initiation forms). Sections C, D, E, and G are to be completed by the interdisciplinary team members. While you may modify this form to fit your needs, you must ensure that the form includes information detailed below and must have your modifications reviewed and approved by the regional environmental coordinator.

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name

Big Thicket NP

Project Number

16359

Project Type

Three Dimensional Geophysical Survey (OTHER)

Project Location

County, State: Hardin, Texas

Project Originator/Coordinator

Haigler Pate

Project Title

Cimarex Energy Co. Sour Lake 3-D Seismic Survey

Contract #/Contractor Name

Administrative Record Contact

Haigler Pate

Administrative Record Location

BITH HQ Kountze, TX

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LOCATION *[To begin the statutory compliance file, attach to this form, maps, site visit notes, agency consultation, data, reports, categorical exclusion form (if relevant), or other relevant materials.]*

Cimarex Energy Co. (Cimarex) has submitted a Plan of Operations to the NPS to conduct a "cable-only" three-dimensional (3-D) seismic survey within the Lance Rosier and Little Pine Island-Pine Island Bayou Corridor Units (Units) of the Preserve. Cimarex's proposed operations within the Units are part of the 43-square mile Sour Lake 3-D seismic survey. Approximately 3 square miles of the survey would overlap the Preserve. The proposed data collection would be accomplished using acoustic reflection methodology, where sources of vibration would be created and the resulting energy wave recorded at various points along a grid to develop an image of the subsurface in three dimensions. The vibrations would be created by the detonation of explosive charges loaded into a single hole drilled at each source point. Cimarex proposes to use "cable-only" methodology within the Preserve. This means that no shot holes would be drilled and no explosive charges would be detonated inside the Units. Operations in the Units would begin with the surveying of locations for receiver placement. Recording operations would follow. This phase of the operation consists of the layout of cables, geophones and batteries to record vibrations produced outside the Preserve, and the removal of this equipment. Recording operations would be supported by helicopter. No off-road vehicle use would be permitted in the Unit. Vegetation would be trimmed to permit passage by foot down the receiver lines. Cimarex has requested a reduction in offset distances required by both the NPS nonfederal oil and gas regulations found at

36 CFR 9B and the Preserve's Oil and Gas Management Plan from watercourses in the project area.

Preliminary drawings attached? Yes No

Background info attached? Yes No

Date form initiated

09/30/2006

Anticipated compliance completion date

Projected advertisement/Day labor start

Construction start

C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER (*Tailor the following to meet individual park/unit project needs.*)

Please see section F (Instructions for Determining Appropriate NEPA Pathway) prior to completing this section. Also, use the process described in DO-12, 2.9 and 2.10; 3.5; 4.5(G) to (G)(5) and 5.4(F) to help determine the context, duration and intensity of effects on resources. The NPS utilizes the impact threshold definitions found in chapter four of the Oil and Gas Management Plan, Big Thicket National Preserve in the analysis of effects for this project.

Are any impacts possible on the following physical, natural or cultural resources?	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes on Context, Duration and Intensity of Effect
1. Geological resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.	X			Negligible impacts from foot traffic are expected. This disturbance is expected to be temporary in nature, with the evidence of most impacts becoming indistinguishable after rainfall over the area.
2. From geohazards		X		
3. Air quality	X			Negligible impacts from aircraft and motorized cutting equipment (chainsaw, brushcutter) use are expected. The impacts would be temporary in nature as prevailing winds are expected to dissipate emissions from the project area.
4. Soundscapes	X			Negligible to minor impacts from aircraft, motorized cutting equipment use and crew presence are expected. The impacts would be temporary.
5. Water quality or quantity		X		
6. Streamflow characteristics		X		
			X	

7. Marine or estuarine resources				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	X			Negligible impacts to wetlands from foot traffic are possible. Impacts are expected to be temporary in nature, with the evidence of most impacts becoming indistinguishable after rainfall over the area. Other short-term impacts (for example, impacts to wetland vegetation) could last longer.
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use		X		
10. Vegetation	X			Negligible impacts to vegetation are expected as a result of this proposal from cutting along receiver line corridors according to the plan of operations. Most individuals affected by the operation are expected to recover fully within two growing seasons or less.
11. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine		X		
12. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat		X		
13. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	X			BITH is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. No change to this classification is expected as a result of this proposal.
14. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat		X		
15. Unique or important fish or fish habitat		X		
16. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	X			No introduction or promotion of non-natives is expected as a result of the proposal. However, it is possible that non-native species could be introduced into new areas. Crews could transport non-native propagules on their clothing or equipment (cables, batteries and geophones).
17. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.		X		
18. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	X			There could be negligible to minor impacts on visitor experience within the Preserve from the presence of crews and equipment (cables, batteries and geophones), as well as sounds produced by motorized cutting equipment and aircraft. Outside the Preserve boundary, visitors would note crew presence and low altitude aircraft operation, but this is unlikely to otherwise affect them.
19. Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources		X		
20. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income	X			Negligible.

changes, tax base, infrastructure				
21. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.		X		
22. Energy resources		X		
23. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies		X		
24. Resource, including energy, conservation potential			X	
25. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.		X		
26. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity		X		
27. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?		X		

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
A. Have material adverse effects on public health or safety?		X		
B. Have adverse effects on such unique characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks?	X			See C. 8. - Negligible impacts to wetlands from foot traffic are possible.
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects?		X		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X		

F. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X		
G. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?		X		
H. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X		
I. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?		X		
J. Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X		
K. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E))?		X		
L. Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)?		X		
M. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?		X		
N. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?		X		
O. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of non-native invasive species or actions that may promote the introduction, growth or expansion of the range of non-native invasive species (EO 13112)?	X			See C. 15. - The introduction of non-natives is possible, but is not expected.
P. Require a permit from a federal, state, or local agency to proceed, unless the agency from which the permit is required agrees that a CE is appropriate?		X		
Q. Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or		X		

local agency or Indian tribe?				
R. Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?		X		
S. Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?		X		

E. OTHER INFORMATION *(Please answer the following questions/provide requested information.)*

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? **Yes**

Did personnel conduct a site visit? **Yes** *(If yes, attach meeting notes or additional pages noting when site visit took place, who attended, etc.)*

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying environmental document? **Yes**

If so, plan name

BITH OGMP.

Is the project still consistent with the approved plan? **Yes** *(If no, prepare plan/EA or EIS.)*

Is the environmental document accurate and up-to-date? **N/A** *(If no, prepare plan/EA or EIS.)* FONSI ROD *(Check)* Date approved _____

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? **Yes**

Did you make a diligent effort to contact them? **Yes**

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **Yes**

(If so, attach additional pages detailing the consultation, including the name, the dates, and a summary of comments from other agencies or tribal contacts.)

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? **Yes**

(If so, attach additional pages detailing the other actions.)

Operations within the Preserve are 7 percent of a larger operation. See Project Description. Because all adverse effects are short-term, there is no contribution to the cumulative impact scenario from the proposed project. Please see the attached materials regarding cumulative impacts.

F. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DETERMINING APPROPRIATE NEPA PATHWAY

First, always check DO-12, section 3.2, "Process to Follow" in determining whether the action is categorically excluded from additional NEPA analyses. Other sections within DO-12, including sections 2.9 and 2.10; 3.5; 4.5(G)(4) and (G)(5), and 5.4(F), should also be consulted in determining the appropriate NEPA pathway. Complete the following tasks: conduct a site visit or ensure that staff is familiar with the site's specifics; consult with affected agencies, and/or tribes; and interested public and complete this environmental screening form.

If your action is described in DO-12 section 3.3, "CE's for Which No Formal Documentation is

Necessary," follow the instructions indicated in that section.

If your action is not described in DO-12, section 3.3, and IS described in section 3.4, AND you checked yes or identified "data needed to determine" impacts in any block in section D (Mandatory Criteria), this is an indication that there is potential for significant impacts to the human environment, therefore, you must prepare an EA or EIS or supply missing information to determine context, duration and intensity of impacts.

If your action is described in section 3.4 and NO is checked for all boxes in section D (Mandatory Criteria), BUT you have initially checked "yes" in section C (Resource Effects to Consider) during internal scoping, this means that the team should do additional analyses to determine the context, duration and intensity of effects. If the magnitude of effects is then determined to be at the negligible or minor level, then usually there is no potential for significant impacts, then an EA or EIS is not required. If, however, during internal scoping and further investigation, resource effects still remain unknown, or are at the minor to moderate level of intensity, and the potential for significant impacts may be likely, an EA or EIS is required.

In all cases, data collected to determine the appropriate NEPA pathway must be included in the administrative record.

G. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORY *(All interdisciplinary team members must sign.)*

By signing this form, you affirm the following: you have either completed a site visit or are familiar with the specifics of the site; you have consulted with affected agencies and tribes; and you, to the best of your knowledge, have answered the questions posed in the checklist correctly.

Interdisciplinary Team Leader Name <i>Haigler Pate</i> <i>HA HA</i>	Field of Expertise <i>Oil + Gas Operations</i> <i>Biologist</i>	Date Signed <i>12/21/06</i>
Technical Specialists Names	Field of Expertise	Date Signed

H. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialist <i>Haigler Pate</i> <i>HA HA</i>	Telephone Number <i>409-951-6822</i>	Date <i>12/21/06</i>
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Approved:

Superintendent <i>[Signature]</i>	Telephone Number	Date <i>12/21/06</i>
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Necessary," follow the instructions indicated in that section.

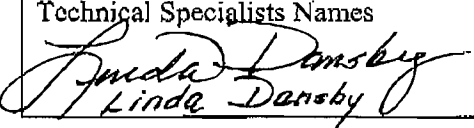
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Interdisciplinary Team Leader Name	Field of Expertise	Date Signed
Technical Specialists Names	Field of Expertise	Date Signed
 Linda Dansby	Regional Minerals Coord. (Biologist)	12/21/06

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Recommended:

Compliance Specialist	Telephone Number	Date

Approved:

Superintendent	Telephone Number	Date