



## Endeavor Natural Gas, LP Proposal to Drill and Produce the Blackstone Minerals B-2 Well from a Site Outside of the Big Thicket National Preserve, Hardin County, Texas

### Project Scoping for the Environmental Assessment

November 21, 2008

Dear Friend of Big Thicket National Preserve:

The National Park Service (NPS) is reviewing a proposal from Endeavor Natural Gas, LP (Endeavor) to re-enter, drill and produce the existing Blackstone Minerals B-2 well from an existing surface location approximately 1,280 feet north of the Beaumont Unit (see map to right). The well would be directionally drilled to reach a new bottomhole location underneath the unit. If the well is completed as a producing well, existing flowlines would be utilized from within the site and new production facilities would be constructed within the site. When the well is plugged and abandoned, the surface landowner would decide on the best use of the site.

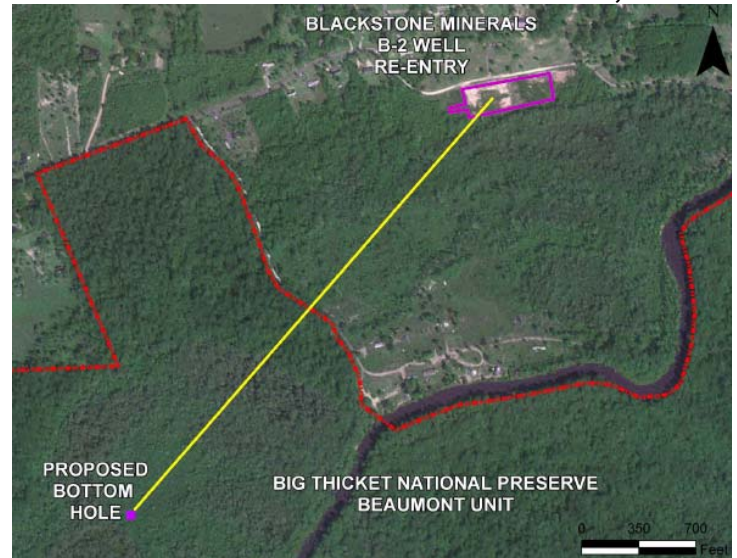
The purpose of the analysis is twofold: 1) carry out compliance responsibilities under various statutes including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and 2) determine whether the directional well qualifies for an exemption under NPS regulation 36 CFR 9.32(e). An exemption may be issued if the NPS determines that the operation poses "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 Unit boundary.

The NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with 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 the 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,

Todd W. Brindle, Superintendent



### 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 project would not take place;

**Alternative 2 – Proposed Action – Drill and Produce the Blackstone Minerals B-2 Well** Endeavor would re-enter, directionally drill and produce the existing Blackstone Minerals B-2 well from a surface location outside the boundaries of the Preserve;

**Alternative 3 – Drill and Produce the Blackstone Minerals B-2 Well from a Surface Location within the Beaumont Unit** Endeavor would develop a new surface location within the Beaumont Unit to drill and produce the well.

**Alternative 4 – Acquire the Mineral Estate** The NPS would acquire the mineral rights which are part of the proposal.

### Overview of the Process

Project milestones include:

- **Public scoping (closes December, 21 2008)\***
- Preparation of the EA
- Public review of the EA\*
- Analysis of public comment
- Preparation of decision document
- Announcement of decision on Endeavor's Proposal

**Bold** indicates where we are now;

\* indicates opportunities for public comment

### 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 ● Lightsapes

## 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 December 21, 2008.** 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: Dusty Pate. You may also hand-deliver written comments to the visitor center at Big Thicket National Preserve.

**Big Thicket National Preserve**  
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Kountze, Texas 77625

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

