

Enefit American Oil

Utility Corridor Project Environmental Impact Statement



BLM

Newsletter No. 1 - July 2013

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), will hold public scoping meetings and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Enefit American Oil's (Enefit) Utility Corridor Project right-of-way application.

Enefit has filed a right-of-way application seeking authorization to construct and operate natural gas, electricity, and water utilities and a processed oil product delivery line across federal lands in the utility corridor(s). In response to Enefit's application for right-of-way across lands they administer, the BLM will prepare an EIS to evaluate and disclose the potential Project-related environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the Enefit Utility Corridor Project. Based on the analysis in the EIS, BLM will issue a decision on whether or not to grant right-of-way on lands they administer.

This project may affect areas around the community of Vernal, Utah. This newsletter is the first in a series to inform the public about the EIS for the project.

PROJECT TIMELINE

The anticipated timeline for the project is:

- Public scoping: 3rd quarter 2013
- Draft EIS available: 3rd quarter 2014
- Final EIS and Record of Decision: 2nd and 3rd quarters 2015

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE EIS PROCESS?

The BLM has developed a proactive public participation program that will be integrated with the EIS process.

The first opportunity for public participation is during scoping. Scoping is the process by which the BLM solicits input on the issues and concerns that will be addressed and analyzed in the EIS. Scoping is open to the public and occurs early in the EIS process. Scoping for this project begins with the publication of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on July 1, 2013. The BLM will host two open houses from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on July 16 and 17 in Vernal and Salt Lake City, respectively.

The open houses will feature displays explaining the purpose and need, project description, process of preparing the EIS, associated schedule, environmental issues identified to date and maps showing the project study area. Representatives from the BLM and Enefit will be available to discuss the project with you. Your written comments are welcome any time throughout the process. However, your written comments will be most helpful to BLM at this early stage when we are determining which issues to address in the EIS.

PUBLIC MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA

<i>Vernal, Utah</i>	<i>July 16, 2013 Vernal City Hall Community Room 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Salt Lake City, Utah</i>	<i>July 17, 2013 Salt Lake City Public Library Level 4 Conference Room 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.</i>

PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The EIS will address the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed utilities in one or more utility corridors. The environmental issues already identified for analysis include potential impacts on:

- Federally-listed threatened, candidate, and BLM sensitive plants and their habitats (i.e., White River penstemon, Graham's penstemon, *Townsendia strigosa* var. *prolixa*, and oilshale catseye)
- Greater sage-grouse, a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act
- Air quality in the Uinta Basin
- Ground and surface water quantity and quality
- Recreation resources
- Cultural resources, especially along the White River, Evacuation Creek, and Coyote Wash
- Native American Concerns and Traditional Cultural Properties
- Paleontological resources in the Green River and Uinta Formations
- Socioeconomic impacts on local economies

The BLM invites you to suggest specific issues and concerns within these general categories or other issues that should be evaluated in the EIS. Comments may be submitted to the BLM (by August 1, 2013) by:

- Filling out a comment form available at the open houses and inside this newsletter
- E-mailing comments to:
blm_ut_vernal_comments@blm.gov
- Mailing comments to:
Vernal Field Office, BLM
ATTN: Stephanie Howard
170 South 500 East
Vernal, UT 84078

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BLM Vernal Field Office
ATTN: Stephanie Howard
170 South 500 East
Vernal, UT 84078



ATTENTION: PUBLIC MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA

Vernal Utah

July 16, 2013
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Vernal City Hall
Community Room
374 East Main
Vernal, UT

Salt Lake City Utah

July 17, 2013
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Salt Lake City Public Library
Level 4 Conference Room
210 East 400 South
Salt Lake City, UT

PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD

The public scoping period runs from July 1 through August 1, 2013.

As the project progresses, the BLM will continue to inform interested parties via the following methods:

- Periodic newsletters providing updates on the project
- Periodic announcements to regional and local newspapers and radio and television stations
- Public open house meetings at key milestones during the EIS process

Also, information about the project can be found on the BLM's website at:

http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/vernal/planning/nepa_.html



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