RANGELY CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINE

PUBLIC SCOPING RESULTS DOCUMENT

APRIL 1984

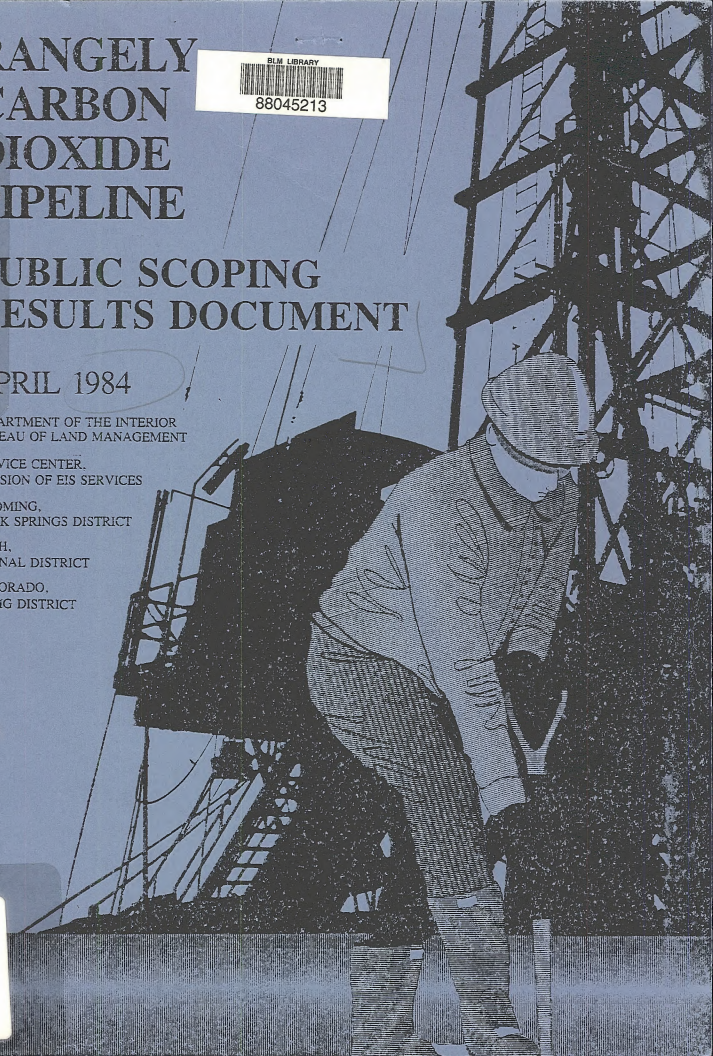
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SERVICE CENTER,
DIVISION OF EIS SERVICES

WYOMING,
ROCK SPRINGS DISTRICT

UTAH,
VERNAL DISTRICT

COLORADO,
CRAIG DISTRICT



RANGELY CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINE

SCOPING RESULTS DOCUMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will analyze the environmental and social effects from construction and operation of a Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) pipeline project proposed by Chevron USA, Inc. The proposal consists of a 16-inch diameter pipeline that would originate at a proposed natural gas treatment plant at the Shute Creek site (near Opal, Wyoming) and would extend 176 miles to the Rangely Unit oil field (Colorado) where it would be used for enhanced oil recovery. The EIS will also analyze effects from related ancillary facilities and a route alternative. The Proposed Action and alternative route are shown on Map 1.

Background of the Scoping Process

Any time the Federal Government considers approving any actions on areas within its jurisdiction which may result in significant impacts to the human environment, an EIS must be prepared. EISs aid federal officials in making their decisions by presenting the environmental and social effects of a proposed project and its alternatives.

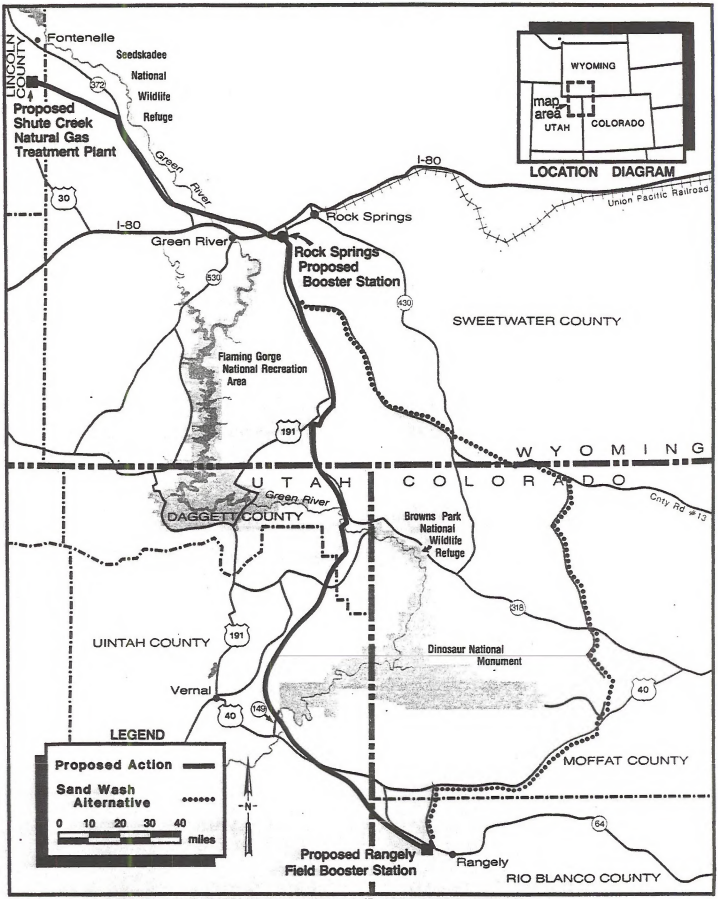
The first step in preparing an EIS is to determine the scope of the project; and the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be included in the document.

The Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508), require that agencies responsible for preparing an EIS use an early scoping process to determine the significant issues related to the proposed action and alternatives which should be addressed in the EIS. The principal purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues, concerns, and potential impacts which require detailed analyses in the EIS and to eliminate insignificant issues and alternatives from detailed analyses. Scoping thus serves to make the EIS process more efficient by reducing paperwork and time on unimportant areas while focusing on the important ones.

Purpose and Method of Scoping

The scoping process for the Rangely CO_2 Pipeline Project consisted of agency meetings, mail-outs for written comments, and informal conversations with interested parties within the affected area. With the assistance of federal and state agencies, local entities, and private individuals, the significant issues and concerns were identified for analysis in the EIS. Insignificant issues were also identified so that they could be eliminated from the scope of the EIS.

Since the proposed action would follow much of the Chevron Phosphate Project route, preliminary issues were developed from concerns identified for that EIS (July 1983).



MAP 1-1 PROPOSED RANGELY CO_2 PIPELINE AND ALTERNATIVES

Map 1

The availability of Rangely CO_2 Pipeline Project mailout scoping packets was then publicized within the affected area through newspapers, radio, and television. This information was also published in the Federal Register. On December 27, 1983, the mailout scoping packets were sent to local offices of federal agencies, state government organizations, and other potentially interested groups and individuals within the area. (See Appendix A for example of handout.)

Responses to the scoping mailouts were accepted through January 18, 1984. Interested individuals, groups, and local agencies were given the opportunity to voice their concerns and raise issues which they felt merited consideration in the EIS. Table 1 identifies the respondents to the mailout scoping.

The mailout scoping packet was also sent to the Washington offices of federal agencies along with a request for the agencies' level of interest and participation in the EIS process.

Identification and Summary of Issues

Issues to be considered in the EIS were identified by the public and various federal, state, and local agencies. Table 2 lists the issues identified during scoping for consideration in the EIS. It also shows the number of times and general groupings of those who expressed concerns.

The majority of the comments concerned possible impacts to the environment and social impacts from the Proposed Action. These issues are grouped by topic and arranged by frequency of occurrence in Table 3.

SCOPING RESULTS

The EIS process will consider the concerns expressed by the public during the scoping process and the concerns of federal, state, and local agencies. The level of detail will be equivalent to the level of anticipated impacts. The impact analysis will define how the components of the action would interact with the surrounding environment. Impacts will be traced beyond the project boundary, to the point where they are no longer significant or traceable to the Proposed Action.

Scope of EIS

Generally, the EIS will analyze the site-specific and cumulative effects of building, operating, and maintaining the CO_2 pipeline, ancillary facilities, and the route alternative. (See Map 1 for locations of the project alternatives and major facilities.)

Analyses will include all potential, significant impacts from the following proposed components:

- the CO_2 pipeline;

TABLE 1
LIST OF RESPONDENTS TO SCOPING REQUEST

A. GENERAL PUBLIC

1. William R. Taliferno
2. John M. Larrabaster
3. Craig Thompson
4. Terry Henderson
5. A.P. Rasmussen
6. Clifford & Leona Smith
7. Nephi Atwood
8. Rodell L. Eggitt
9. Keith Blow
10. Geoffrey A. Carthew

B. CITIZEN GROUPS AND REGIONAL SOCIETIES

1. Wyoming Wildlife Federation
2. Colorado Natural Heritage Inventory
3. Wyoming Outdoor Council
4. Green River Economic Development Association
5. Colorado Native Plant Society

C. NATIONAL SOCIETIES

1. Sierra Club, Rocky Mountain Chapter

D. INDUSTRY

1. W.R. Grace & Company
2. Pacific Power & Light
3. Brown & Caldwell
4. Exxon U.S.A., Inc.
5. Northwest Pipeline Corp.
6. Chevron U.S.A.
7. Mountain Fuel Supply Company

E. FEDERAL AGENCIES

1. Bureau of Mines, Intermountain Field Operations Center
2. Interstate Commerce Commission
3. Corps of Engineers
4. Forest Service, Utah Energy Liaison Officer
5. Fish & Wildlife Service, Colorado Suboffice
6. Bureau of Mines, Helium Field Operations
7. Environmental Protection Agency

8. Federal Highway Administration, Denver
9. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Western Divison of Project Review

F. BLM

1. Bureau of Land Management, Craig District, White River RA
2. Bureau of Land Management, Craig District, Little Snake RA

G. STATE AGENCIES

1. State of Wyoming, Department of Economic Policy & Planning Division
2. Colorado, State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
3. State of Wyoming Recreation Commission
4. State of Utah, Division of Wildlife Resources
5. Wyoming State Engineers Office
6. Colorado, Division of Water Resources
7. Colorado, Oil & Gas Conservation Commission
8. Colorado, Department of Highways

H. COUNTY/LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

1. Uintah County Planning Office
2. Town of Rangely
3. Lincoln-Uinta Association of Governments
4. Mayor of Dinosaur
5. Moffat County Planning Department
6. Town of Granger
7. Daggett County Commission

Table 2
RANGELY CO_2 PIPELINE EIS PUBLIC SCOPING RESPONSES JANUARY 1984
ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

ISSUES	GENERAL PUBLIC	CITIZEN GROUPS	NATIONAL SOCIETIES	INDUSTRY	FEDERAL AGENCIES	BLM SPECS/ MANAGERS	STATE AGENCIES	COUNTY/ LOCAL GOV'T
ENVIRONMENTAL								
Vegetation								
Colorado Plant Species of Special Concern should be considered for potential impact.		2				1		
Minimize disturbance of riparian habitat and wetland habitat.		1		1		1		
Disruption of sensitive vegetation.	1							
Potential impacts to vegetation, in general.		1						
Wildlife								
Potential impact to raptor nests during construction.						1		
Potential impacts to pronghorn winter range.						1		
Potential impact on prairie dog towns considered potential black-footed ferret habitat.						1		

Table 2 (Continued)
RANGELY CO_2 PIPELINE EIS PUBLIC SCOPING RESPONSES JANUARY 1984
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ISSUES	GENERAL PUBLIC	CITIZEN GROUPS	NATIONAL SOCIETIES	INDUSTRY	FEDERAL AGENCIES	BLM SPECS/ MANAGERS	STATE AGENCIES	COUNTY/ LOCAL GOV'T
Access created by any permanent roads constructed along corridor could be detrimental to wildlife.							1	
Potential impacts to threatened and endangered species.				1	2			
Creek and spring in Jesse Ewing Canyon need to be available during and after pipeline construction.							1	
Impacts to wildlife and habitat from construction.	3	2		1	2		1	1
Concern about critical wildlife areas, including riparian near pipeline corridor and correct timing of construction to project.		1					3	
Impacts to aquatic life from construction siltation.	2				1		1	
Impacts to migratory birds.					1			

Table 2 (Continued)
RANGELY CO_2 PIPELINE EIS PUBLIC SCOPING RESPONSES JANUARY 1984
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ISSUES	GENERAL PUBLIC	CITIZEN GROUPS	NATIONAL SOCIETIES	INDUSTRY	FEDERAL AGENCIES	BLM SPECS/ MANAGERS	STATE AGENCIES	COUNTY/ LOCAL GOV'T
Address cumulative impacts to wildlife and habitat, especially critical habitat, from installation of consecutive pipelines or other projects in same area and associated population increase.	1	1					2	1
Construct phosphate and CO_2 pipelines simultaneously to avoid wildlife impacts.		1						
Powerline configurations to microwave or pumping stations must not endanger raptors.							1	
Impacts to wildlife in Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge.				1				
Potential damage to cold water fishery and rare and endangered Colorado River squawfish from CO_2 underwater leak in Green River in Browns Park.				1	1		1	
Impacts to migratory wildlife from open pipeline trenches, especially in Rock Springs to Clay Basin corridor.	1	1						
Potential impacts from poaching.	1				1		2	
Effects of pipeline breaks on wildlife.	1							

Table 2 (Continued)
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ISSUES	GENERAL PUBLIC	CITIZEN GROUPS	NATIONAL SOCIETIES	INDUSTRY	FEDERAL AGENCIES	BLM SPECS/ MANAGERS	STATE AGENCIES	COUNTY/ LOCAL GOV'T
Address impacts to Sage Grouse strutting grounds, brooding areas and winter ranges in Utah and Colorado.	1					1	1	
Concern about impacts to critical deer and elk wildlife ranges, with protection to preserve water sources, elk calving areas and deer fawning areas.							1	
Visual Resources								
Potential visual impacts.		1			1			
Visual impact on and around Dinosaur National Monument.	1				1			
Locate microwave structures to avoid visual impacts.		1						
Potential impacts to scenic beauty of the Green River.							1	
Recreation								
Indirect impacts on dispersed recreation activities and developed recreation sites on National Forest lands from work-force in area.					1			

Table 2 (Continued)
RANGELY CO_2 PIPELINE EIS PUBLIC SCOPING RESPONSES JANUARY 1984
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Possible shortage of camp sites in Browns Park area for recreationists due to construction workers using established camp sites as temporary residents.	2							
Potential impact on rafting recreation in Green River-Dinosaur Monument area.			1					
Erosion control and reclamation warrant site-specific analyses and procedures in Red Creek Badlands and Jesse Ewing Canyon.				1				
Siting of pipeline is critical.	1							
Minimize disturbance of new areas including ROW widths.		1						
During reclamation, use more seed, care to improve the existing situation.	1							
Concern about cumulative impacts.	1							
Reclamation of disturbed vegetation essential, relative to reestablishment of plant species.							2	

Table 2 (Continued)
RANGELY CO_2 PIPELINE EIS PUBLIC SCOPING RESPONSES JANUARY 1984
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ISSUES	GENERAL PUBLIC	CITIZEN GROUPS	NATIONAL SOCIETIES	INDUSTRY	FEDERAL AGENCIES	BLM SPECS/ MANAGERS	STATE AGENCIES	COUNTY/ LOCAL GOV'T
Use proper reclamation procedures to ensure rehabilitation, and guard against erosion of trench.	2	1		3				2
Concern about degree of grade in Jesse Ewing Canyon, and difficulties that may cause.		1						
Land Uses								
Potential conflicts with oil, gas, coal, trona, and oil shale resources should be addressed. (Bear Springs coal mine in particular.) The proposed route and the alternatives all cross these resources.		1			1			
Soils								
"Piping" soils in Vermillion Creek drainage and Spring Creek north of Maybell.						1		
Overland soil erosion from right-of-way disturbance.							1	
Water Resources								
Need to maintain streamflow in Green River during construction.							1	
Potential impacts from three crossings of the Green River.	1			2				1

Table 2 (Continued)
RANGELY CO_2 PIPELINE EIS PUBLIC SCOPING RESPONSES JANUARY 1984
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ISSUES	GENERAL PUBLIC	CITIZEN GROUPS	NATIONAL SOCIETIES	INDUSTRY	FEDERAL AGENCIES	BLM SPECS/ MANAGERS	STATE AGENCIES	COUNTY/ LOCAL GOV'T
Surface disturbance in Red Creek watershed.								1
Disposal of test water.	1							
Siltation into the Green River from disturbance along the pipeline.	1				1			
Need to preserve channel integrity at all stream and drainage crossings.					1		1	
No interference with use of water under Wyoming water rights during construction and operation.							1	
Potential impacts from proposed discharges of dredged or fill material into waterways or adjacent wetlands.					1			
Cultural Resources								
Potential indirect impacts to archaeological sites from vandalism, construction of new access roads, construction of erosion control projects outside proposed ROW, and relocation of range improvements.						1		
Potential impacts to historic/archaeological resources, including the Jarvie Ranch historical site.	1		1		1	1		2

Table 2 (Continued)
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ISSUES	GENERAL PUBLIC	CITIZEN GROUPS	NATIONAL SOCIETIES	INDUSTRY	FEDERAL AGENCIES	BLM SPECS/ MANAGERS	STATE AGENCIES	COUNTY/ LOCAL GOV'T
Air Quality								
Potential impacts to air quality during construction.	1				1			
Noise								
Potential impacts from construction noise.					1			1
SOCIAL IMPACTS								
Social								
Preference for housing construction workers in Green River/Rock Springs given number of vacant housing units and availability of commercial service for transporting workers.		1						
Minor social effects due to short period of time construction crews in area and small number of employees needed to operate pipeline.								1
Positive effects by bringing people into communities, including utilization of vacant apartments and houses.	4	1						1
Impact to housing and community services, i.e., police, fire, ambulance, welfare, water (family life) of all communities, including Dinosaur.	1	3		2	1			1

Table 2 (Continued)
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Transportation Networks								
Potential impacts to travel patterns.	1			1	1			1
Impacts to other transportation (pipeline) corridors.				1				
Potential impacts to roadbeds from heavy equipment and need for additional maintenance funds.	2							
Potential disruption of traffic in Jesse Ewing Canyon; do not block traffic.	4	1						
Concern about proximity to existing pipelines.				1	1			
Health and Safety								
Potential impacts to public safety at sites where the pipeline would cross roads, highways, railroads, etc.				1	1			
Added danger of wildfire due to construction and potential worker carelessness.	1							
Effects of pipeline breaks or leaks.			2	1				
Potential effects of H_2S in CO_2.			1					

Table 2 (Continued)
RANGELY CO_2 PIPELINE EIS PUBLIC SCOPING RESPONSES JANUARY 1984
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ISSUES	GENERAL PUBLIC	CITIZEN GROUPS	NATIONAL SOCIETIES	INDUSTRY	FEDERAL AGENCIES	BLM SPECS/ MANAGERS	STATE AGENCIES	COUNTY/ LOCAL GOV'T
Transportation Networks								
Potential impacts to travel patterns.	1			1	1			1
Impacts to other transportation (pipeline) corridors.				1				
Potential impacts to roadbeds from heavy equipment and need for additional maintenance funds.	2							
Potential disruption of traffic in Jesse Ewing Canyon; do not block traffic.	4	1						
Concern about proximity to existing pipelines.				1	1			
Health and Safety								
Potential impacts to public safety at sites where the pipeline would cross roads, highways, railroads, etc.				1	1			
Added danger of wildfire due to construction and potential worker carelessness.	1							
Effects of pipeline breaks or leaks.			2	1				
Potential effects of H_2S in CO_2.			1					

Table 2 (Continued)
RANGELY CO_2 PIPELINE EIS PUBLIC SCOPING RESPONSES JANUARY 1984
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Need to assess increase in new taxes generated and increased expenditures by local governments, by jurisdiction and not as a group.				1			1	1
SUGGESTED MITIGATION								
Monitoring wind/water erosion of R/W during operation, especially to reduce cumulative impacts.	1				1			
All companies proposing pipelines in area should combine all phases of schedules to minimize impacts.	1							
Implementation of right-of-way provisions in accordance with Wyoming Department of Transportation regulations.				1				
Hire workers proportionately from the unemployed pipeline workers from all communities along the route.	1							
Place more law patrols on roads during "rush hour" on routes to construction sites.	1							

Table 2 (Continued)
RANGELY CO_2 PIPELINE EIS PUBLIC SCOPING RESPONSES JANUARY 1984
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EIS PROCESS								
If this pipeline is not built, some have said Exxon's plant would not be developed. If so, the no action alternative would represent a substantial impact.	1							
High costs and amount of time to complete what should be a trivial task.	1							
Who will be preparing EIS and other studies?	1							
Will public hearings be held in population centers, not just local communities?	1							
Concern that scoping packet distributed to all concerned, not select few.	1							
If any of the alternate routes are used, a formal right-of-way will be required for crossing lands administered by Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners.							1	
Question on whether we are in EIS phase or in the EA phase, then go to EIS.	1							
Need for coordination with counties/ municipalities with reference to socioeconomic mitigation.				1				1

Table 2 (Continued)
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If you do have a scoping meeting in Vernal, I may view my questions and concerns about the EIS process at such a meeting, not at this time, however.	1							
PROPOSED ACTION AND PREFERENCES ON ALTERNATIVES								
Expressions of Preference								
Proposed Action								
Should expand scope to include analysis of terminus use of injection of CO_2 into the Chevron Federal Unit.						1		
Oppose Alternative D.	1							
Favor proposed routes over others.	1							
Favor Alternative D.		1						
Favor Alternative G		1						
Is misleading to indicate that the pipeline will carry nitrogen, H_2S and water unless gas composition is given. Currently reads as those these constituents are carried separetely.				1				

Table 2 (Concluded)
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Minimize new microwave stations		1						
Will there be water needs involved with transportation of CO_2?	1			1				
Favor simultaneous construction in same R/W as Chevron slurry pipeline.								1

TABLE 3
ISSUE TALLY

Issues	Number of Times Identified
ENVIRONMENTAL	
Wildlife	45
Reclamation	16
Water Resources	12
Cultural	11
Vegetation	8
Visual	5
Land Uses	5
Recreation	4
Air Quality	2
Noise	2
Wilderness	2
Special Management Areas	1
Soils	1
SOCIAL IMPACTS	
Social	36
Transportation	10
Health & Safety	5
ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL	20
SUGGESTED MITIGATION	5
EIS PROCESS	15
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENTS	2
PROPOSED ACTION/PREFERENCE ON ALTERNATIVES	9

- booster station to be located near Rock Springs, including access road and power distribution line; and

- microwave communication system.

The EIS will analyze the total effects from these actions and alternatives. In addition, the following facilities are also part of the proposed project but have been analyzed in the Riley Ridge Natural Gas Project EIS (BLM 1983) and in EAs prepared or being prepared by the Craig District Office and the Rock Springs District Office.

- Initial compressor station and terminal microwave communications system;

- Rangely field compressor station and terminal microwave communications system; and

- distribution, injection, and recycling system for the CO_2 in the Rangely Weber Sand Unit oil field.

The cumulative impacts of this project and of other proposed or existing actions in the same area will also be analyzed. Particular attention will be paid to increases or decreases in potential impacts resulting from interaction with the Chevron phosphate pipeline. The phosphate pipeline is scheduled to be built during the same time period--1985.

Scope of Resources

Based on the issues and concerns identified during the scoping process, the EIS will focus on the following resources: socioeconomics, wildlife, water resources, soils, and vegetation. These and other resource topics will be analyzed in the EIS. The topics are ordered by the combined priorities of public scoping and agency responsibilities and concerns.

Socioeconomics

The majority of socioeconomic impacts are associated with project construction scheduled to span less than a year and diffused throughout the study area. Therefore, this section will focus on short-term population increases and employment affects in Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado. Emphasis will be placed on the cumulative employment effects of this project with the Chevron Phosphate Project.

Wildlife

Since construction would span less than 1 year, population increases would be short term. Therefore, assessment of impacts to wildlife will focus on short-term disturbances from construction of the project and a transient population.

The wildlife section will focus on potential effects of the project on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, as well as on threatened and endangered species. Potential effects to habitat, including crucial habitats, will be covered for the following:

- strutting grounds;
- nesting areas;
- fawning/calving areas;
- seasonal ranges (winter range, dates, etc.);
- migration routes;
- spawning areas;
- raptor nests;
- special federal and state wildlife management areas;
- prairie dog towns and potential black-footed ferret habitat; and
- any state or federal species in the Yampa River, Green River, or any other perennial stream.

Potential damage to aquatic species from accidental CO_2 leaks in perennial streams will be addressed.

Water Resources

The analysis will focus on any impacts to water from project construction and operation. Focus will be placed on impacts to perennial streams and the effects of project construction on surface water flow and water quality. Erosion, sedimentation, siltation, and channel integrity from pipeline crossings will also be addressed, and the disposal of hydrostatic test water will be analyzed.

Soils and Vegetation

Existing information of varying detail will be used to evaluate the soil types crossed by the Proposed Action and alternative routes. Where only general soil surveys exist for areas whose soils are highly susceptible to erosion or have low reclamation potential will be supplemented by photo-interpretation.

The physical and chemical properties, slope and landform, erodibility, climatic conditions, and general stability will all be considered in determining overall reclamation potential. Cumulative disturbance from this and other projects will be addressed from the standpoint of interaction with the Chevron phosphate pipeline and other pipelines and of reclamation. The analysis will focus on determining the locations of sensitive soils and developing special mitigation for the potential impacts.

Potential impacts of project consutruction and operation on broad vegetation types will be analyzed by the percentage of ground cover and locations. Project impacts on woodlands will be analyzed as needed. In addition, potential impacts to threatened and endangered plant species that occur along the proposed and alternative routes will be assessed as will impacts of the proposed project on riparian and other sensitive vegetation.

The standard erosion control, revegetation, and reclamation techniques for soils and vegetation will be evaluated as part of the Proposed Action for all project components. More mitigation will be developed for locations with sensitive soils and revegetation areas (erosion, soil piping) to ensure adequate reclamation and restoration.

Agriculture

The agriculture section will focus on effects to livestock carrying capacity, grazing patterns, and class of livestock in relation to the local economy. Potential for significant losses of animal unit months will be discussed.

At this time, no impacts to farming and cropland are anticipated. If in fact, no impacts would occur as result of the Proposed Action, a negative declaration will be made.

Visual Resources

The analysis will focus on changes to the visual characteristics caused by modification in landform and vegetation and the addition of project facilities within the project area from project construction and operation. Emphasis will be placed on the assessment of potential visual impacts in areas of high visual sensitivity and scenic quality. BLM's Visual Resource Management System will be applied to all lands.

Cultural Resources

Existing cultural resource information (modified Class I survey) will be used, including the parts of the Proposed Action and alternative analyzed in the Chevron Phosphate Project EIS and any data the BLM District Offices have on hand. Although no additional literature search (Class I) will be conducted, data gaps will be identified. Class III surveys will be required for all areas that would be disturbed by this project.

Recreation Resources

This section will analyze impacts to dispersed recreation opportunities and developed recreation sites in areas that would be affected by the project, including potential impacts from project alternatives. Impacts to recreation resources from construction and operation workforces will also be addressed.

Wilderness

Potential or existing wilderness areas that could be affected by building of linear or ancillary facilities and by construction and operation workforces will be analyzed. Construction or operation of the Proposed Action or alternative is not likely to directly affect wilderness values; but, indirect effects will be analyzed.

Transportation Networks

The transportation section will analyze impacts to existing transportation systems (roads, railroads, pipelines), due to transportation to and from the project site. Potential conflicts with existing pipelines and the proposed Chevron phosphate pipeline will be checked. Focusing on problem areas, the analysis will be mainly qualitative although impacts will be quantified when possible. Public concerns about interference with traffic will also be evaluated.

Air Quality

The analyses will include potential primary and secondary impacts to air quality from construction and operation under the Proposed Action and alternative. These impacts would likely be only temporary, involving fugitive emissions from construction. The proposed natural gas treatment plant at the Shute Creek Site as analyzed in the Riley Ridge Natural Gas Project EIS (1983) will be qualitatively analyzed for reduced CO_2 emissions and contribution for the "greenouse effect," and H_2S and odor emissions from CO_2 venting.

The compressor (booster) stations at Section 19, T. 18 N., R. 105 W., and at the well field will be analyzed quantitatively only if they are above EPA "de minimus" levels. Potential impacts from unintentional releases of CO_2 or H_2S in the Rangely Weber Sand Unit oil field, which could occur as a result of CO_2 injection, will also be analyzed.

The best possible conclusions regarding the possibility and magnitude of impacts will be drawn without the use of models. The Health and Safety section will be cross referenced for discussions of consequences.

Geology/Paleontology

Potential impacts to minerals development from the proposed pipeline will be addressed.

Potential impacts to the geologically unique outcropping in the potential BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern in Colorado will be addressed.

Literature for paleontological resources will be checked on a limited basis, and appropriate mitigation will be developed to protect these resources, should they occur.

Land Use Constraints and Conflicts

This section will identify conflicts with and constraints from existing federal, state, and local land use plans. Potential BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in Colorado will be included in the analysis. BLM land use plan amendments, needed to allow the project, will be identified, as will areas that place potential constraints on the construction of the proposed pipeline as a result of minerals leases or withdrawals.

SUMMARY FOR SCOPING
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ON RANGELY CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINE

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has lead responsibility for preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposed carbon dioxide (CO_2) pipeline from Exxon's proposed natural gas treatment plant at Shute Creek near Opal, Wyoming to Chevron's Rangely Unit oil field near Rangely, Colorado, hereafter referred to as the Rangely CO_2 Pipeline. This summary briefly describes the proposed action and tentatively identifies some issues that may be significant. It has been prepared to assist you in determining your interest in participating in the scoping process.

Scope

Council on Environmental Quality regulations (Federal Register, Wednesday, November 29, 1978, Part VI, 1501.7) require lead agencies to use an early scoping process for determining the significant issues related to a proposed action to be addressed in an EIS. The main purpose of the scoping process is to identify the important significant issues and potential impacts deserving study in the EIS before EIS preparation begins.

Assistance from federal and state agencies and private organizations and individuals is needed and is being solicited through the scoping process to help BLM identify issues that should be analyzed in the EIS. The scoping process will also identify the insignificant issues that will be de-emphasized to narrow the scope of the EIS.

Tentatively Identified Federal Actions

Bureau of Land Management

- -- issuing 106 miles of pipeline right-of-way in Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado.
- -- issuing a right-of-way for a booster pump station west of Rock Springs, Wyoming.
- -- issuing rights-of-way for up to seven microwave repeater stations.
- -- issuing rights-of-way for power distribution lines, booster pump stations, and cathotic protection stations.
- -- issuing temporary use permits for construction materials sales.
- -- issuing temporary use permits for materials storage.
- -- issuing rights-of-way for permanent and temporary access roads.

Corps of Engineers

-- issuing a Section 404 permit for crossing the Green River.

Tentative Scope of the Proposed Action

The Rangely CO_2 Pipeline EIS would analyze the impacts of building and operating a 16-inch CO_2 pipeline and associated facilities from Exxon's proposed natural gas treatment plant at Shute Creek near Opal, Wyoming to Chevron's Rangely Unit oil field near Rangely, Colorado. BLM proposes to analyze the CO_2 pipeline as a transportation system. If this approach is followed, the injection of the CO_2 into the Rangely Unit oil field would be a separate action.

The background of this project is somewhat complex and involves three oil companies: Chevron, Exxon, and Shell. Needing CO_2 for tertiary oil recovery at its Rangely Unit oil field, Chevron issued a request for proposals for supplying this CO_2. Both Exxon and Shell are competing for this contract, and Chevron should make a decision in mid-1984. In the meantime, Exxon and Chevron have jointly applied for a right-of-way for a pipeline to supply CO_2 from Exxon's proposed Shute Creek natural gas treatment plant to Rangely. If Chevron does not award Exxon the contract, then the Exxon/Chevron pipeline right-of-way application may be withdrawn, and an EIS may not be prepared.

Description of the Proposed Action

Summary

Exxon has proposed that a 180-mile long 16-inch pipeline be built to carry CO_2 from its proposed natural gas treatment plant site at Shute Creek, Wyoming to Chevron's Rangely Unit oil field, near Rangely, Colorado (treatment plant analyzed in Riley Ridge Natural Gas Project FEIS, 1983). The proposed pipeline would carry 200 million standard cubic feet per day (scfd) of CO_2, amounting to at least 96 percent of the pipeline's load. The pipeline would also carry nitrogen and an extremely small amount of hydrogen sulfide and water.

Associated facilities would include a booster pump station tentatively planned for a site west of Rock Springs, Wyoming, 6 scraper traps, 10 block valves, a metering terminal, and up to 7 microwave repeater installations, power distribution lines, and an undetermined number of cathodic protection stations. The CO_2 would enter the pipeline at Exxon's plant at 2000 pounds per square inch (psi) and travel along 58 miles of pipeline to the booster station near Rock Springs. The booster station would repressure the CO_2 back to 2000 psi as needed and deliver it through 122 miles of pipeline to a field booster in the Rangely Unit oil field.

The proposed route would follow existing pipelines for 135 miles or 75 percent of its length. The existing pipelines are the Trailblazer natural gas line and MAPCO's liquid hydrocarbon line. For much of its length the proposed route would also follow the route of the approved but not yet built Chevron phosphate slurry pipeline. Should the CO_2 pipeline be approved, it would be built during the same summer (but not necessarily simultaneously) as the planned Chevron phosphate pipeline in 1985. Through Jesse Ewing Canyon in Utah, and possibly along other short sections, the CO_2 pipeline would not only parallel MAPCO's existing line but would be built simultaneously with Chevron's approved phosphate slurry pipeline, which would also parallel MAPCO's existing pipeline. Such pipeline placement would conserve space in these existing pipeline corridors.

Construction

Exxon has applied for a 50-foot-wide construction right-of-way for most of the route, but in certain areas the construction zone would be 100 feet wide. The pipeline would be built using standard procedures and would be buried at a depth that would provide at least 36 inches of cover.

The proposed CO_2 pipeline would be built in three spreads. A spread consists of the equipment and crews handling the various phases of construction for a given pipeline segment. All three spreads would be operating more or less simultaneously. The construction workforce would not exceed 450 workers during peak construction. During construction, the contractor is expected to set up temporary headquarters in Rangely, Colorado, and Rock Springs, Wyoming. Workers would live in local motels, rented houses, personal trailers, pickup campers, and other lodging and would drive to the construction sites.

Construction noise would be distributed along the length of the spread. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, heavy equipment and construction typically produce noise levels of about 90 decibels at a distance of 50 feet.

Vegetation would be removed from the right-of-way only to the extent needed to clear a space for the trench line for a 20-foot-wide storage area for excavated material, and to allow the safe operation of construction equipment. To allow vehicles to safely cross the right-of-way, temporary bridges or culverts would be built for creeks and gullies. All earth work would be graded to have the least adverse effects on natural drainages. When blasting is needed, a variety of safety precautions would be followed to protect workers and the public. Where the right-of-way crosses fences, adequate bracing would be installed at each edge of the right-of-way before cutting the wires and installing a temporary gate.

The proposed pipeline would cross only one major perennial stream--the Green River--but would cross it three times. The pipeline would be buried and built during the period of low flow. Streamflow would be maintained at all times. The pipeline would also cross Red Creek and parallel it for a short distance.

When the proposed pipeline approaches roadbeds supporting paved roadways, construction crews would bore a hole beneath the bed and insert casing pipe rather than build a ditch across the surface.

The pipeline would be cathodically protected by the pipe coating, rectifiers, and anodes. Rectifiers would be placed near electric power lines and mounted on a pole next to the right-of-way, with their associated anodes buried. Exact locations of these cathodic protection devices cannot be determined until the pipeline is installed and the proper tests are conducted.

The entire pipeline would be hydrostatically tested to a least 125 percent of maximum operating pressure. This one-time testing would take 10 acre-feet of water, which would be disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local agency requirements.

The pipeline would need from four to seven microwave repeater stations for project communications. The stations are expected to be at least 25 miles apart but may be spaced at greater intervals. Some stations may be placed on existing sites. The towers could range in height from 40 to 360 feet, depending on the topography. Power for the microwave equipment would be obtained from the local power sources at such facilities as pump stations and terminals. Where no other power source exists, solar cell panels would be used if feasible. Small towers would occupy an area of 50 by 50 feet, and large towers would occupy larger areas.

Operation

A communications and control center at the Rangely Field production office would monitor and control the pipeline operation. It would be attended 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, during operation. Computers would continously monitor pipeline pressure and flow conditions at key points and would sound an alarm, should pressure of flow deviate. The Rock Springs booster station would operate unmanned except for one employee who would work weekdays on routine maintenance.

Tentatively Identified Alternatives

Some tentative alternatives to the proposed action have been identified by the applicant and BLM for possible analysis in the EIS:

No Action--(decision not to grant the federal permits or rights-of-way required for construction of the proposal)

Alternative pipeline routes A - G (see map)

Tentatively Identified Issues for Discussion Purposes

The following issues might be of concern and may be analyzed in the EIS:

- Tight construction areas, including Jesse Ewing Canyon, Red Creek Escarpment, and the head of Rye Grass Draw.

- The sensitivity of the Red Creek Badlands Area of Critical Environmental Concern

- The crossing of the Green River three times.

- The potential impacts to the Dinosaur National Monument visibility buffer zone.

- Potential impacts to critical wildlife habitat.

- Potential impacts to livestock trailing and wildlife migration due to open pipeline trenches.

- The concept of yet another pipeline in the corridors, e.g., a fourth pipeline in the Rock Springs to Clay Basin corridor, a third pipeline in the Clay Basin to Vernal corridor.

- Potential socioeconomic cumulative impacts due to interrelationships with other planned or proposed simultaneous construction of Chevron's phosphate fertilizer plant and associated pipelines and the Rangely CO_2 pipeline workforce.

- Potential impacts for unauthorized, unregulated occupancy of public land outside the community, such as unauthorized camping, camping on livestock waters, and littering.

- Historic trail crossings and cultural resource impacts.

- Potential impacts to trona mining operations.

- The economic and social impact of construction on the communities near the proposed pipeline route.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SCOPING RESPONSE FORM
(EIS Process)

Please use these sheets to submit written comments about the issues and concerns you think should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed carbon dioxide (CO_2) pipeline from Exxon's La Barge Project, Wyoming to Rangely, Colorado (which includes areas in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming). Be as specific as you can, and send your comments no later than January 18, 1984.

1. Identify and comment on the most important environmental issues related to the proposed CO_2 pipeline from Exxon's La Barge Project, Wyoming to Rangely, Colorado which should be addressed in the EIS; for example, wildlife, waste disposal, reclamation, etc.

2. Identify and comment on the most important social impact issues which you think deserve attention; for example, population growth, housing, quality of life, etc.