



Hawkins, Sarah <shawkins@usgs.gov>

---

## Re: USGS research core HM-1-13

---

**Bob Narracci** <bob.narracci@eaglecounty.us>

Fri, Jun 21, 2013 at 12:42 PM

To: "Hawkins, Sarah" <shawkins@usgs.gov>, Kris Friel <Kris.Friel@eaglecounty.us>

Sarah:

Thank you for your patience waiting for our response. Upon vetting the USGS request, the maps and pictures provided, it has been determined that the reduction in setback from Milk Creek Road right-of-way to 127 feet where 150 feet is required by the State, is acceptable.

As I mentioned to you previously, the Board of County Commissioners wants the County Public Information Officer, Kris Friel, to issue a proactive press release to inform/educate the public prior to USGS commencing the core drilling operations.

I have copied Kris on this email to open a line of communication between you two. Please provide Kris with the pertinent details of the USGS operation, beginning date, anticipated end date, purpose, etc.

Thank you  
Bob

On Wed, Jun 19, 2013 at 1:04 PM, Hawkins, Sarah <shawkins@usgs.gov> wrote:

Bob,

We are in luck! I have attached an photograph of the rig that is planned for use in Wolcott. I hope that this helps.

Thanks,

Sarah Hawkins

.....  
Sarah J. Hawkins  
Geologist  
Central Energy Resources Science Center  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Box 25046, MS 939  
Denver, CO 80225

[shawkins@usgs.gov](mailto:shawkins@usgs.gov)  
303-236-5767  
.....

On Tue, Jun 18, 2013 at 4:15 PM, Bob Narracci <bob.narracci@eaglecounty.us> wrote:

Sarah:

Thank you for the information you provided. I did have a chance to discuss this matter with our elected officials, and in consistent fashion, they asked me to obtain a picture of a wireline rig mounted on a trailer. I emphasized that the Delta pictures you provided were intended as an example and that you were clear that

the drilling rig needed for your work in Eagle County would be much smaller. Nonetheless, can you please send a picture? I did Google it and found several trailer mounted rigs; however, they ranged considerably in size and I do not want to misrepresent.

I believe once I can show them a picture, that they will be fine with the variance request.

The Board also asked me to work with the County's PIO to develop a proactive press release to inform the public what's going on and why before USFS even begins its work. As such, I or our PIO (Kris Friel) may be contacting you with suggestions on how to best set forth the explanation in a concise press release format.

Thank you,  
Bob

On Tue, Jun 18, 2013 at 11:16 AM, Hawkins, Sarah <[shawkins@usgs.gov](mailto:shawkins@usgs.gov)> wrote:  
Bob,

I have attached a couple of files that I hope will help you. The first is a pair of maps of the planned location for the research core that we are planning north of Wolcott. The first is just a general index map that identifies the location and township/range/section information. The second is a land status map that identifies BLM land boundaries. As I mentioned in our phone conversation, we have gotten approval for this operation from the BLM. Our request and approval came through Monte Senor at the BLM Silt office. We have also gone through the process of permitting this location with the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

The second file is a set of photos of the operations on the AB-2-11 core that we acquired north of Delta, Colorado in late 2011. The location for this operation is on designated OHV access on BLM land. The area has been referred to as "Monochrome Basin" by Dave Noe at the Colorado Geological Survey, and locally it is known as the "Adobes". It is an extensive area south of Grand Mesa where the Mancos Shale crops out and is actively weathering. As you can see from the photos, not much grows on the outcrops and the landscape looks pretty barren. The area had pretty extensive existing disturbance from its heavy use by off road vehicles and dirt bikes (as you'll see in the first two photos).

The rig that you'll see in the pictures is not the rig that we will be using in Wolcott. The rig that is planned for Wolcott operations is much smaller and more efficient at coring rocks like the ones we will encounter there. The rig we will be using at Wolcott is a wireline rig mounted on a trailer. Other than the different rig that we'll be using, the other equipment will be similar. As I mentioned on the phone, the crew only works sun up - sun down, so there will be no noise or light pollution at night. Additionally, all of the cuttings and water that will be generated from our operations will be directed into a dumpster that will be hauled off site when coring is complete. The only other larger piece of equipment that will be on site is the water truck that will supply the rig with water from a municipal source. The crew will come and go each morning in regular vehicles (trucks or SUVs), but everything else will stay within our designated footprint, surrounded by safety fencing and signage.

Finally, as this operations is only intended to acquire a core for further research, we will not be conducting tests on the hole for oil or gas, as we do not expect that there is any potential here. Once the core is acquired, the hole will be logged using geophysical tools. The logging operation will take no more than 12 hours. Following logging, the hole will be plugged according to the standards and methodology outlined on the permit issued by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. There will be no continued operations at this site or permanent facilities. The site will be reclaimed to its original state immediately following plugging of the hole. We don't anticipate the entire operation to take more than 20 days.

I hope that this information helps. Please call or email if you have any further questions.

Thanks for you help in getting us this waiver.

Sarah Hawkins

.....  
Sarah J. Hawkins  
Geologist  
Central Energy Resources Science Center  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Box 25046, MS 939  
Denver, CO 80225

[shawkins@usgs.gov](mailto:shawkins@usgs.gov)  
303-236-5767  
.....

--  
***Robert Narracci, AICP***  
***Planning Director***  
***Eagle County Planning Department***  
***500 Broadway***  
***PO Box 179***  
***Eagle, Colorado 81631***

***Phone: (970) 328-8750***  
***Fax: (970) 328-7185***

--  
***Robert Narracci, AICP***  
***Planning Director***  
***Eagle County Planning Department***  
***500 Broadway***  
***PO Box 179***  
***Eagle, Colorado 81631***

***Phone: (970) 328-8750***  
***Fax: (970) 328-7185***