

Wolf Creek Storage Field

To best continue serving you with safe and reliable natural gas, we're proposing to construct two new natural gas storage wells in the Wolf Creek Storage Field. The new wells will replace two existing wells, so they'll be drilled within an existing well pad location and won't increase the facility's footprint.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Wolf Creek Storage Field?

Wolf Creek Storage Field is an underground natural gas storage area serving Black Hills Energy customers in the Roaring Fork Valley. Natural gas is gathered in the storage wells during the summer and used during high demand winter months. A depleted hydrocarbon field located in the White River National Forest, the Wolf Creek Storage Field now helps reliably serve natural gas customers in the region.

Why does Black Hills Energy need to do this project?

We regularly test and monitor all wells at the facility. While the wells are regularly maintained and equipment is updated with state-of-the-art technology, we determined that replacing the wells at this time will best ensure continued reliability and safety of the system.

What is the role of state and federal agencies in overseeing the Wolf Creek Storage facilities?

The Bureau of Land Management is the mineral owner, with jurisdiction over below-ground activities, while the U.S. Forest Service is the surface owner and has jurisdictional authority over the area. As a regulated utility, Black Hills Energy adheres to the strict regulations of PHMSA (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration), COGCC (Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission), and the Colorado PUC (Public Utilities Commission).

What permits are necessary for the project?

We will apply for permits with Pitkin County, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Are new wells permitted in the White River National Forest?

The White River National Forest is a 'working forest' which means multiple types of activities occur in the same areas in the Forest. National Forests are managed for multiple uses, and energy development is one of those uses. These leases were issued in 1953. The first Wolf Creek well was drilled in 1960, and the Wolf Creek Gas Storage Agreement was formed in 1977. The Forest is required by law to work with oil and gas operators that have leases on National Forest System lands.



Will the project impact public access in the area?

Maintenance work will take place at existing well sites and will not impact the general surroundings or public recreation in the surrounding area. For your safety, members of the public should not approach any of the storage facilities or maintenance equipment.

Will there be traffic impacts?

An increase of truck traffic on 4 Mile Road and 300 Road is anticipated during the work, but there should be minimal impact to public.

What steps are being taken to ensure safety and protect the environment?

We're committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable energy in a way that protects the environment and the interest of our customers. Black Hills Energy will apply for and obtain all necessary environmental permits required by the regulating entities and will maintain a rigorous environmental protection program throughout the project.

Where can I find more information?

Project updates will be available at www.blackhillsenergy.com/wolfcreek.