



**URBAN  
SOLUTION  
GROUP**

## **COGCC Form 2A and WOGLA 1041 Noise Mitigation Plan**

Schmerge 9-4HZ Pad  
Weld County, Colorado

Prepared for:

Kerr-McGee Oil & Gas Onshore LP  
1099 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Denver, CO 80202

Prepared by:

Urban Solution Group, LLC  
4230 Elati Street, Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80216

January 24, 2023



## Table of Contents

1	Executive Summary.....	1
2	Regulations and Noise Standards Summary.....	2
	COGCC Rule 423 Noise Regulation – Brief Overview.....	2
	WOGLA Noise Regulations and Standards – Section 21-5-435 .....	4
	Compliance Summary (Unadjusted) .....	6
	Maximum Permissible Noise Levels (Adjusted) - Summary.....	7
3	Summary of BMPs and Mitigation to be Implemented .....	8
4	Site Information .....	9
5	Compliance Points.....	10
6	Estimated Operations & Duration Schedule.....	11
7	Ambient Sound Level Survey .....	12
8	Noise Impact Assessment.....	14
	Methodology .....	14
	Equipment Information and Site Layouts .....	15
	Drilling Noise Model Results.....	16
	Completions Noise Model Results .....	22
	Production Noise Model Results .....	28
	Flowback Operations Review .....	31
9	Continuous Monitoring / Complaint Resolution.....	32
10	Conclusion .....	32
11	Notations .....	32
	Appendix 1 – Equipment Layouts.....	33
	Appendix 2 – Ambient Data and Charts .....	37
	Appendix 3 – Sound Fundamentals.....	39
	Appendix 4 – Glossary .....	42

**Report Submitted to:**  
 Anthony Lupica  
 (720) 929-3295  
 Occidental Petroleum Corporation  
 anthony\_lupica@oxy.com

**Report Contact:**  
 Gareth Svanda  
 Urban Solution Group  
 (720) 749-2916  
 gareth.svanda@urbansolutiongroup.com

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Urban Solution Group, LLC (Urban) was commissioned to prepare a Noise Mitigation Plan (NMP) for the proposed Schmerge Pad to be operated by **Kerr-McGee Oil & Gas Onshore LP (KMOG)**. KMOG is proposing to develop oil and natural gas wells at the Schmerge Pad located in Weld County, Colorado. The purpose of this plan is to assess predicted environmental noise impacts from the proposed operations on the surrounding area as compared to the maximum permissible noise level (MPNL) limits described in both the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) Rule 423, and the Weld County Oil and Gas Location Assessment (WOGLA) Section 21-5-435, noise regulations.

To facilitate this work, the following analyses were completed:

- Pre-operational ambient sound level survey for surrounding area
- Completion of a full site-specific Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) with individual models for;
  - Drilling operations with the Precision Drilling Rig #461
  - Completions operations with a Halliburton Q10 XLE, Low Noise Fleet
  - Production operations with the equipment and layout proposed by KMOG
- Specification of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be implemented at the proposed Schmerge location such that all operations comply with both noise regulations and minimize the environmental noise impact on the surrounding area.

The results of the analyses with full implementation of the BMPs for the Schmerge location are summarized as follows;

Analysis Type	Result
Noise Points of Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One A-weighted compliance point 350 feet from the location toward the RBU, and one C-weighted compliance point at the RBU within 2,000 feet of the location; all points meet both COGCC and WOGLA requirements</li> </ul>
Pre-Operational Ambient Sound Level Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambient sound levels were measured at one location near the location</li> <li>• Ambient adjustments apply to production alone as shown in Table 5</li> </ul>
Drilling Operations NIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliant. No further noise mitigation required, but KMOG to erect partial perimeter sound wall due to sensitive nature of the area as part of BMPs</li> </ul>
Completions Operations NIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliant with mitigation: Partial-perimeter, engineered sound wall (500 linear feet of 32-foot-tall, STC32) along the north edge of the pad</li> </ul>
Flowback Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilizes a fraction of similar, but smaller equipment compared to the three other operations studied. Leave perimeter sound wall in place until flows are initiated</li> </ul>
Production Operations NIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliant without mitigation</li> </ul>

## 2 REGULATIONS AND NOISE STANDARDS SUMMARY

Noise for energy related facilities located in Weld County, Colorado, is regulated through two separate agencies. The first, at the state level is through the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) 423 series noise regulation. The second is through Weld County’s Oil and Gas Location Assessment (WOGLA) Section 21-5-435, noise regulation. These regulations set the maximum permissible noise levels (MPNLs), which limit noise emitted from energy facilities within the study area over a specified period, as measured at noise points of compliance. These allowable limits are dependent on the land use zoning within the study area. An overview of the COGCC regulation is presented first, followed by the Weld County WOGLA noise regulation. The most constraining components of each are the summarized at the end of this section to clarify compliance requirements.

### **COGCC Rule 423 Noise Regulation – Brief Overview**

Section 423.b (1) of COGCC Rule 423 (the Regulation) states that all Oil and Gas Operations will comply with the MPNLs in Table 1 below unless otherwise required by Rule 423.

**Table 1. Maximum Permissible Noise Levels (COGCC Table 423-1)**

Zone	Daytime (7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.)	Nighttime (7:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.)
Residential/Rural/State Parks & Wildlife Areas	55 dB(A)	50 dB(A)
Commercial/Agricultural	60 dB(A)	55 dB(A)
Light industrial	70 dB(A)	65 dB(A)
Industrial	80 dB(A)	75 dB(A)
All Zones	60 dB(C)	60 dB(C)

Exceptions to these MPNLs for Drilling, Completions and Flowback Operations are outlined in section 423.b (2) as follows:

- A. In Residential/Rural or Commercial/Agricultural, MPNLs will be 60 dBA in the hours between 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and 65 dBA in the hours between 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and
- B. In all zones MPNLs will be 65 dBC in the hours between 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and 65 dBC in the hours between 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

These MPNLs are applied at “noise points of compliance”. These points are chosen as outlined in section 423.a (5) of the Regulation:

- (5) For proposed Oil and Gas Locations with a Working Pad Surface within 2,000 feet of one or more Residential Building Units (RBUs), at least one, and no more than six noise points of compliance where monitors will be located. Operators will identify noise points of compliance using the following criteria:

A. Provide one noise point of compliance in each direction in which an RBU is located within 2,000 feet of the proposed Working Pad Surface.

B. Noise points of compliance will be located at least 350 feet from the Working Pad Surface, and no less than 25 feet from the exterior wall of the RBU that is closest to the Working Pad Surface. If a Surface Owner or tenant refuses to provide the Operator with access to install a noise monitor, then the noise point of compliance will be located at either the next-closest RBU or an alternative location approximately the same distance and direction from the Working Pad Surface.

Demonstration of compliance with noise level limits during operation is outlined in section 423.c (2) as follows:

A. In response to a complaint or at the Director's request, Operators will measure sound levels at 25 feet from the complainant's occupied structure towards the noise source for low frequency (dBC) indicated issues. For high frequency (dBA) measurement will be at the nearest point of compliance. For equipment installed at Oil and Gas Locations subject to a Form 2A approved prior to January 15, 2021, after the Commencement of Production Operations, no single piece of equipment will exceed the MPNLs listed in Table 423-1 as measured at a point 350 feet from the equipment generating the noise in the direction from which the complaint was received.

Finally, adjustments to the MPNLs based on the measured pre-existing ambient noise levels is allowed. However, the new maximum allowable noise levels for permanent facilities such as Production Operations are capped and based on cumulative noise levels. Ambient adjustments and cumulative noise levels are outlined in section 423.d of the Regulation as follows:

d. Cumulative Noise. All noise measurements will be cumulative.

(1) Noise measurements taken at noise points of compliance designated pursuant to Rule 423.a.(5) will take into account ambient noise, rather than solely the incremental increase of noise from the facility targeted for measurement.

(2) At new or substantially modified Oil and Gas Locations where ambient noise levels at noise points of compliance designated pursuant to Rule 423.a.(5) already exceed the noise thresholds identified in Table 423-1, then Operators will be considered in compliance with Rule 423, unless at any time their individual noise contribution, measured pursuant to Rule 423.c, increases noise above ambient levels by greater than 5 dBC and 5 dBA between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. or 7 dBC and 7 dBA between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. This Rule 423.d.(2) does not allow Operators to increase noise above the maximum cumulative noise thresholds specified in Table 423-2 after the Commencement of Production Operations.

(3) After the Commencement of Production Operations, if ambient noise levels already exceed the maximum permissible noise thresholds identified in Table 423-1, under no circumstances will new Oil and Gas Operations or a significant modification to an existing Oil and Gas Operations raise cumulative ambient noise above the following:

**Table 2. Maximum Cumulative Noise Levels (COGCC Table 423-2)**

Zone	Daytime (7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.)	Nighttime (7:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.)
Residential/Rural/State Parks & Wildlife Areas	65 dB(A)	60 dB(A)
Commercial/Agricultural	70 dB(A)	65 dB(A)
Light industrial	80 dB(A)	75 dB(A)
Industrial	90 dB(A)	85 dB(A)
All Zones	75 dB(C)	70 dB(C)

### **WOGLA Noise Regulations and Standards – Section 21-5-435**

Section 21-5-435 of the WOGLA regulations require operators to describe plans for noise mitigation that demonstrate their capability to meet the MPNLs outlined in Table 435 A.1, which are reproduced in Table 3 below.

**Table 3. WOGLA Table 435 A.1 Maximum Permissible Noise Levels**

Noise Levels	Daytime (7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.)	Nighttime (7:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.)
<b>A-scale</b>		
NL-1	55 dB(A)	50 dB(A)
NL-2	60 dB(A)	55 dB(A)
NL-3	65 dB(A)	60 dB(A)
NL-4	70 dB(A)	65 dB(A)
<b>C-scale</b>		
All Zones	65 dB(C)	65 dB(C)

Section 21-5-435 also states:

1. During the Construction Phase or during operations involving Pipeline or Gas Facility installation or maintenance, use of a Workover rig, or stimulation, operators must comply with the following noise levels:
  - a. For Oil and Gas Locations within the Ag-Rural Planning Area, as depicted on the map in Appendix 21-B, Operators shall comply with the MPNL for the NL-4 standard.

- b. For Oil and Gas Locations within the Near-Urban Planning Area, as depicted on the map in Appendix 21-B, Operators shall comply with the MPNL for the NL-3 standard.
  - c. The OGED Director may require Operators to comply with a lower MPNL in consultation with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, or Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
2. During the Production Phase, Operators with Oil and Gas Locations in both the Ag-Rural and Near-Urban Planning Areas shall comply with the MPNL for the NL-1 standard.

To demonstrate compliance with the standards set forth in Section 21-5-435.A, sound levels shall be measured according to the following standards:

1. Pursuant to an A-scale complaint:
  - a. Sound levels shall be measured at a distance of three hundred fifty (350) feet from the Oil and Gas Location, in the direction of the complainant.
  - b. At the request of the complainant or OGED Director, sound levels may be measured at a point beyond three hundred fifty (350) feet that the complainant or OGED Director believes is more representative of the noise impact.
  - c. If an Oil and Gas Location is located closer than three hundred fifty (350) feet from an existing occupied structure, sound levels shall be measured at a point twenty-five (25) feet from the structure towards the Oil and Gas Location.
  - d. On property owned by the Operator, noise levels shall be measured at three hundred fifty (350) feet from the Oil and Gas Location, or at the property line, whichever is greater.
  - e. In situations where measurement of noise levels at three hundred fifty (350) feet is unrepresentative or non-attainable due to topography, measurements may be taken at a more attainable/accessible distance and be extrapolated to a three hundred fifty (350) foot equivalent using the following formula:

$$\text{Unknown db(A)} = \text{Known db(A)} - (20 \times \log_{10}(d_2/d_1))$$

This same formula should also be used when calculating db(C).

(d2 = standard distance 350 ft. & d1 = measured distance)

- f. If a baseline noise survey has been conducted, the overall Leq within the closest direction of the complainant will be utilized to determine compliance.
2. Pursuant to a C-scale complaint:

- a. In situations where the complaint or on-site inspection indicates that low frequency noise is a component of the problem, sound level measurements shall be taken twenty-five (25) feet from the exterior wall of the complainant's residence or occupied structure in the direction of the Oil and Gas Location, using a noise meter calibrated to the db(C) scale.
- b. If the noise source is on the same property as the complainant, db(C) readings will be taken twenty-five (25) feet from the exterior wall of the residence.
- c. If the sound levels exceed the MPNLs as defined in Table 435 A.1, the OGED Director shall require the Operator to obtain a low frequency noise impact analysis by a qualified sound expert, including identification of any reasonable control measures available to mitigate such low frequency noise impact. Such study shall be provided to the OGED Director for review and possible action.
- d. If a baseline noise survey has been conducted, the overall Leq within the closest direction of the complainant will be utilized to determine compliance.

### **Compliance Summary (Unadjusted)**

Given that all of the components from both noise regulations must be met simultaneously, compliance requirements are simply the combination of the most stringent parts of each. Therefore, the A-weighted compliance locations are chosen at a distance of 350 feet from the proposed oil and gas location, in the direction of residences located within 2,000 feet of the proposed location. The C-weighted compliance points are chosen as the residences located within 2,000 feet of the proposed Schmerge location (25 feet away from the residence in the direction of the proposed location).

The location is zoned with an Agricultural land use designation, and is situated in the Near-Urban planning area based on information from the Weld County Zoning Department. The applicable MPNLs as applied at the noise compliance points are summarized in the table below.

**Table 4. Compliance Summary Maximum Permissible Noise Levels (Unadjusted)**

Zone	Operation	Daytime (7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.)	Nighttime (7:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.)
Commercial/Agricultural	Drilling, Completions & Flow Back	65 dB(A)	60 dB(A)
		65 dB(C)	65 dB(C)
	Production	55 dB(A)	50 dB(A)
		60 dB(C)	60 dB(C)

## **Maximum Permissible Noise Levels (Adjusted) - Summary**

The results of the ambient sound level survey for the Schmerge Pad are presented in Section 7 of this document.

Section 423.d(2) of the COGCC Regulation and Section 21-5-435.C of the WOGLA regulation allow for adjustments to the MPNLs if the measured ambient sound levels exceed the MPNLs. COGCC code allows for an adjustment of 7dBA/dBC during daytime, and 5dBA/5dBC during nighttime for all operations (though production operations are also constrained by the cumulative maximums in Table 423-2 of COGCC Rule 423). Whereas the WOGLA regulation Section 21-5-435.C allows for an adjustment of 5dBA/dBC for both daytime and nighttime periods during drilling, completions, and flowback operations; and production operations are not allowed to exceed the measured ambient noise level.

For drilling, completions, and flowback operations, the ambient sound levels at the monitor point in Table 7 are below the MPNLs allowed by both codes and no adjustment is required.

For production operations, the A-weighted daytime ambient sound levels as well as the daytime/nighttime C-weighted levels are below the MPNLs listed in Table 4 above, and no adjustment is required. However, nighttime A-weighted ambient sound levels exceed the MPNL of 50 dBA for WOGLA code. Therefore, per WOGLA Section 21-5-435.C, the adjusted MPNL is the measured ambient of 52.9dBA.

Adjusted MPNLs for the corresponding ambient measurement location are presented in Table 5 below. Corresponding receptor point locations are presented in Figure 2 of Section 5.

**Table 5. Adjusted Maximum Permissible Noise Levels for the Schmerge Pad**

Phase	Receptor	Ambient Monitor Point #	Maximum Permissible Noise Levels	
			dBA	dBC
Construction, Drilling, Completions, Flowback	1, A	1	65 Day / 60 Night	65 Day / 65 Night
Production	1, A	1	55 Day / <b>52.9</b> Night	60 Day / 60 Night

### 3 SUMMARY OF BMPS AND MITIGATION TO BE IMPLEMENTED

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are practices that are designed to prevent or reduce impacts caused by oil and gas operations on the environment and wildlife, and to minimize adverse impacts to public health, safety, and welfare.

The BMPs that KMOG plans to implement for the proposed Schmerge site are as follows:

- KMOG has conducted a Noise Impact Assessment for each phase of operations (drilling, completions, and production) to assess operational noise levels against the maximum allowable dBA and dBC noise levels stated in both the COGCC Rule 423 and the WOGLA Section 21-5-435 noise regulations. Each phase of operation will comply with the MPNLs of both codes as summarized in Table 5 of Section 2 of this document.
- Prior to commencement of drilling and completion activities, a partial perimeter engineered sound wall consisting of approximately 500 linear feet of 32-foot-tall, STC32 wall will be installed at the north edge of the pad.
- KMOG is utilizing a modified drilling rig designed to reduce overall noise levels. This will include low noise level shale shakers and modifications to the generator house to reduce noise levels from the exhaust vents and radiator fans. Additional noise reduction modifications may also be implemented depending on the rig contractor utilized following a noise survey study.
- KMOG will utilize a low noise completions fleet for all completions operations.
- Flowback operations and equipment were reviewed as part of this noise mitigation plan (NMP). Flowback utilizes a fraction of similar, but smaller equipment compared to the three other operations studied. Leaving perimeter sound walls in place until flows are initiated will appropriately manage noise levels for this operation.
- If the drilling rig or completions fleet is changed prior to commencement of operations, the mitigation measures will be equally or more protective. A sundry form will be submitted to outline any changes per both codes as required.
- A pre-operational ambient sound level survey was conducted at the location outlined in Figure 3 of Section 7 to quantify pre-existing A- and C-weighted sound levels.
- KMOG will deploy continuous monitoring for drilling and completions operations and any construction activities that last longer than 24 continuous hours. Monitor locations will coincide with the ambient monitor locations outlined in Figure 3 of Section 7 of this document.
- KMOG will post contact information to receive and address noise complaints arising from pre-production operations around the clock, 24-hours, 7 days per week. Upon receipt of a complaint, either directly to KMOG, from the COGCC, or from Weld County, a KMOG representative will contact the associated stakeholder within 48-hours of receipt.



## 4 SITE INFORMATION

The Schmerge Pad is located in Weld County and is situated north of US Highway 34 and east of County Road 17 near, Greeley, CO. The closest road, County Road 17, is a two-lane paved highway 4,000 feet west of the Schmerge Pad. The location is zoned with an agricultural land use designation and is situated in the Near-Urban planning area based on information from the Weld County Zoning Department.

The Schmerge location is slated for drilling, completions, and production operations. Drilling is planned with the PD#461 Drilling Rig and completions will be carried out with a Halliburton Q10 XLE Low Noise Fleet. Planned production equipment is provided in Figure 18 of Appendix 1, with significant noise sources limited to two LACTs, one unfired 60" bulk separator, one instrument air compressor, two fired 60" bulk separators, and two 48" test separators.

Detailed location information is presented below, and an aerial view of the proposed location is shown in Figure 1.

- Location :** NE ¼ SE ¼ SEC. 4, T5N, R67W, 6TH P.M.
- Drilling Rig:** Precision Drilling Rig #461
- Completions Rig:** Halliburton Q10 XLE, Low Noise Fleet
- Production Equipment:** Details provided in Figure 18 of Appendix 1
- Pad Location Coordinates:** 40°25'35.29"N, 104°53'22.60"W
- Regulation Noise Target:** COGCC Rule 423 and WOGLA Section 21-5-435

**Figure 1. Aerial View of the Proposed Schmerge Pad**

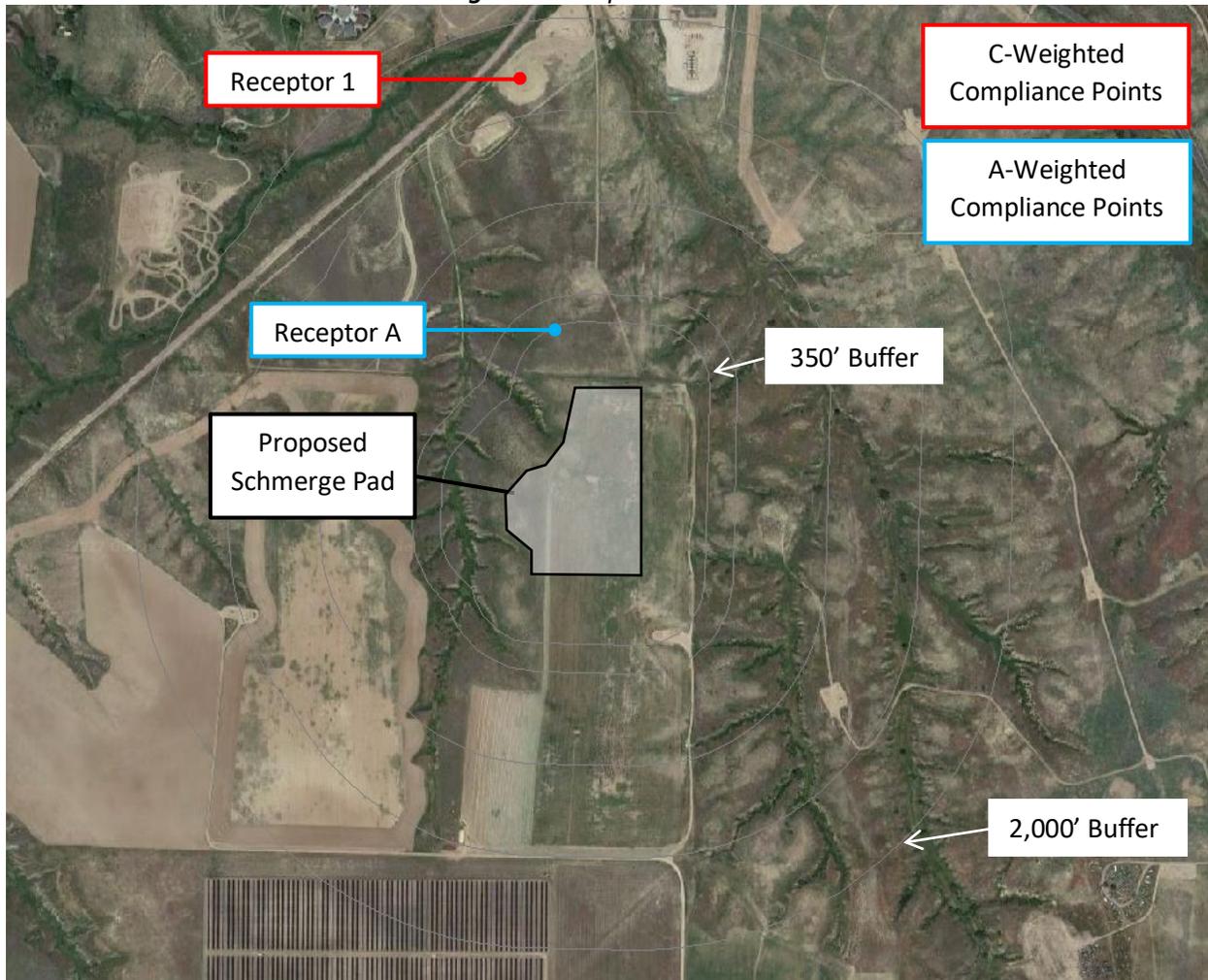


## 5 COMPLIANCE POINTS

The MPNLs for all operations are applied at noise compliance points. These points are chosen as outlined in both the COGCC Rule 423, and the Weld County WOGLA Section 21-5-435, noise regulations. The A-weighted compliance location is chosen at a point 350 feet from the location in the direction of the only residence within 2,000 feet of the proposed location; and the C-weighted compliance point is chosen as the same residence (25 feet away from the residence in the direction of the proposed Schmerge location).

Figure 2 below shows an aerial view of the Schmerge location as well as the noise compliance points. One A-weighted compliance point is indicated in blue and one C-weighted compliance point is indicated in red.

**Figure 2. Compliance Points**



## 6 ESTIMATED OPERATIONS & DURATION SCHEDULE

The following table reflects KMOG’s planned construction and operations schedule for the Schmerge Pad at the time of this Noise Mitigation Plan. The schedule in Table 6 below includes an estimated duration of each stage of operation, including construction, drilling, completion, flowback, and production.

**Table 6. KMOG’s Planned Operations Schedule**

Phase	Duration (Days)	Estimated Start Date
Construction	45	Q3 2023
Drilling	110	Q4 2023
Completion	84	Q1 2024
Flowback	20	Q3 2024
Production	10,950 (30 years)	Q3 2024

## 7 AMBIENT SOUND LEVEL SURVEY

Section 423.b of the COGCC regulation requires that the Operator conduct a background ambient noise survey to establish baseline conditions for both A-scale and C-scale noise levels near the site. Urban conducted a 72-hour ambient sound monitoring study to monitor and document pre-operational ambient sound levels using Type 1 noise monitoring stations. The sound level meter collected measurements of both A and C-weighted decibel levels at the monitoring location and are calibrated before and after the measurement period. The Leq average values are calculated by averaging 1-minute Leq noise levels when the wind speed is below 5 miles per hour, per guidance from Weld County and the COGCC.

The ambient monitoring location in relation to the Schmerge Pad is shown in Figure 3 below. A-weighted and C-weighted sound levels were collected at the location from Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., to Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., inclusive.

**Figure 3. Aerial View of Ambient Monitoring Point Locations and the Schmerge Pad**



In addition to the ambient noise levels acquired, the sound level meters (SLMs) were set to record audio files when the levels exceed 55 dBA in the daytime (7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.) and 50 dBA in the nighttime (7:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.). Based on the recordings, the most common sounds for the monitoring locations include airplanes and nearby industrial facilities.

Table 7 below shows the overall A and C-weighted averages (Leq) for the 72-hour monitoring period at the SLM. Averages shown represent the overall sound levels when wind was below five (5) miles per hour. Data was filtered to remove values with wind speeds exceed five (5) miles per hour, per COGCC and Weld County guidelines.

**Table 7. Overall Leq Background Ambient Noise Levels (Filtered for Wind Speed)**

Location	Daytime Averages (Leq)		Nighttime Averages (Leq)		Overall Averages (Leq)	
	dBA	dBC	dBA	dBC	dBA	dBC
Monitoring Point 1	51.8	59.6	52.9	59.4	<b>52.4</b>	<b>59.5</b>

Figure 23 in Appendix 2 contains the chart with the unfiltered hourly averages and wind speeds for the monitoring point.

## 8 NOISE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) was conducted for the proposed Schmerge location using a three-dimensional computer noise modeling software. This is a predictive model to aid in ascertaining the environmental impact of the proposed facility during all planned operations on the surrounding environment. The results of this assessment will compare the predicted levels of the Schmerge Pad operations to the permissible noise level limits described in both the COGCC Rule 423, and WOGLA Section 21-5-435 noise regulations.

A brief explanation of the methodology is presented first, followed by noise model results for drilling, completions, and production.

### **Methodology**

All computer models and predicted noise levels generated for the assessment are developed with the commercial noise modeling software SoundPLAN 8.2. The ISO 9613-1 and 2 international standards are utilized in this software as they are widely accepted both internationally as well as in North America. The algorithms used in the commercial software package are based on methods and theory accepted in the environmental acoustics community. Both detailed equipment technical information and location specific topography, are used to generate comprehensive noise predictions that take into account environmental conditions, buildings, ground cover and barriers (natural, topographical, and otherwise). Note that actual field measurements may differ from modeled noise levels on any given day due to ever changing environmental factors and other noise sources in the study area not explicitly in the computer model. Table 7 below lists the conditions used in the model.

**Table 8. Conditions Used in SoundPLAN 8.2 Software**

Parameter	Modeled Input and Description
Temperature	55°F – Represents typical summer nighttime temperature
Topography	Modeled as is, with proposed location modified per grading plan
Wind Velocity	2.2 - 11.2 mph – ISO 9613 uses a slight downwind condition from each noise source to each receiver.
Wind Direction	From the noise source to the receptor points
Relative Humidity	40% - Typical summer nighttime relative humidity
Ground Absorption	Ranges from 0.0 for water bodies & major roadways up to 1.0 for thick grasslands

It is assumed that facility operating conditions do not change significantly between the daytime and nighttime periods. The resulting predicted noise levels are compared to the MPNLs outlined in both regulations to determine if the subject facility is compliant.

The noise levels generated in this predictive model are strictly from oil and gas operations at the proposed facility. Pre-existing sound sources such as those from animals, weather, road traffic, and all other ambient sounds are not included in the noise models.

Receptor points in this assessment are shown in Figure 2 of Section 5. One A-weighted receptor point was modeled at a distance of 350 feet from the oil and gas location in the direction of residences located within 2,000 feet of the proposed location. One C-weighted receptor point was modeled at a distance of 25 feet from the RBU in the direction of the proposed Schmerge location. The RBU is located approximately 1,670 feet north of the edge of Schmerge location.

### **Equipment Information and Site Layouts**

Drilling operations at the Schmerge Pad are carried out using the Precision Drilling Rig #461. The sound power levels used in this NIA are taken from the E21068 Precision Drilling Rig #461 Sound Signature Report prepared by Urban in August 2021. The drilling equipment layout for the Schmerge Pad is shown in Figure 16 of Appendix 1.

Completions operations at the Schmerge Pad are carried out using the Haliburton Oilfield Services Low Noise Fleet. The sound power levels used for the Haliburton Fleet in this NIA are taken from the Haliburton Quiet Fleet Sound Signature Report prepared by Urban in February of 2020. The completions equipment layout for the Schmerge Pad is shown in Figure 17 of Appendix 1.

Production operations at the Schmerge Pad are implemented per the equipment layout supplied by KMOG. The sound power levels used for the production equipment used in this NIA are taken from the E22003 Production Equipment Sound Signature Report (for the 60" bulk separators), with the balance of production equipment taken from the E21069 Production Equipment Sound Signature Report; both of which were prepared by Urban. The production equipment layout for the Schmerge Pad is shown in Figure 18 of Appendix 1.

## ***Drilling Noise Model Results***

Results for both unmitigated and mitigated drilling operations are presented in Table 9 below. The receptor locations in the table correspond to the locations identified in Figure 2 of Section 5.

Although unmitigated noise levels are below the MPNLs for both COGCC and Weld County code, KMOG will leave the partial perimeter sound wall used for completions in place during drilling operations. The sound wall is not needed for drilling operational compliance, but KMOG will implement the sound wall to reduce the noise impact on the surrounding area.

The sound wall layout is shown in Figure 4 on the next page and consists of approximately 500 linear feet of 32-foot-tall, engineered sound wall, rated at STC32.

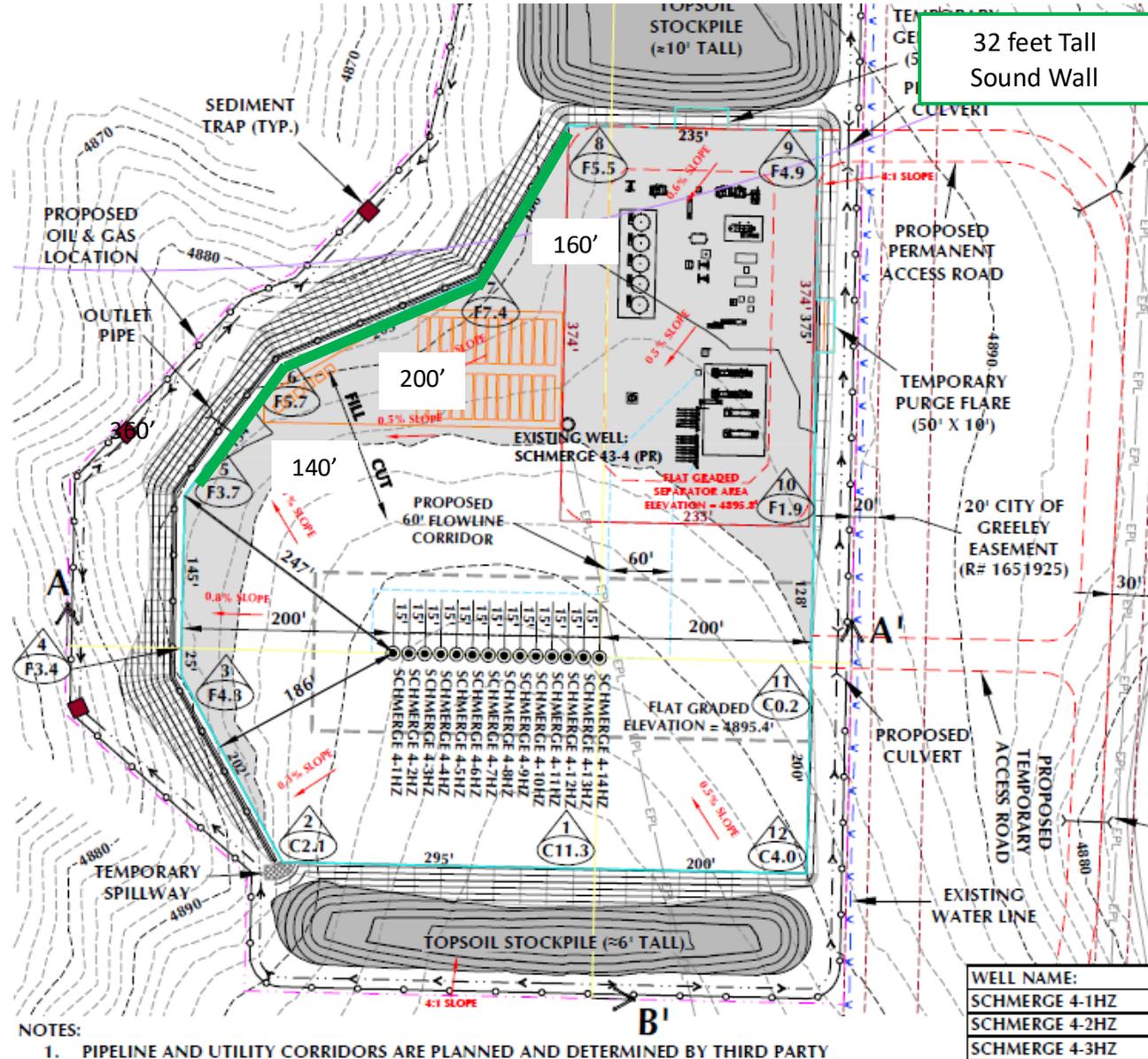
**Table 9. Drilling Operations Noise Model Results**

Receptor	Distance & Direction from the Working Pad Surface (feet)	Max Permissible Noise Level		Drilling Unmitigated		Drilling Mitigated	
		dBA	dBC	dBA	dBC	dBA	dBC
Receptor A	350 N	60.0	--	50.2	--	45.7	--
Receptor 1	1670 N	--	65.0	--	58.8	--	58.0

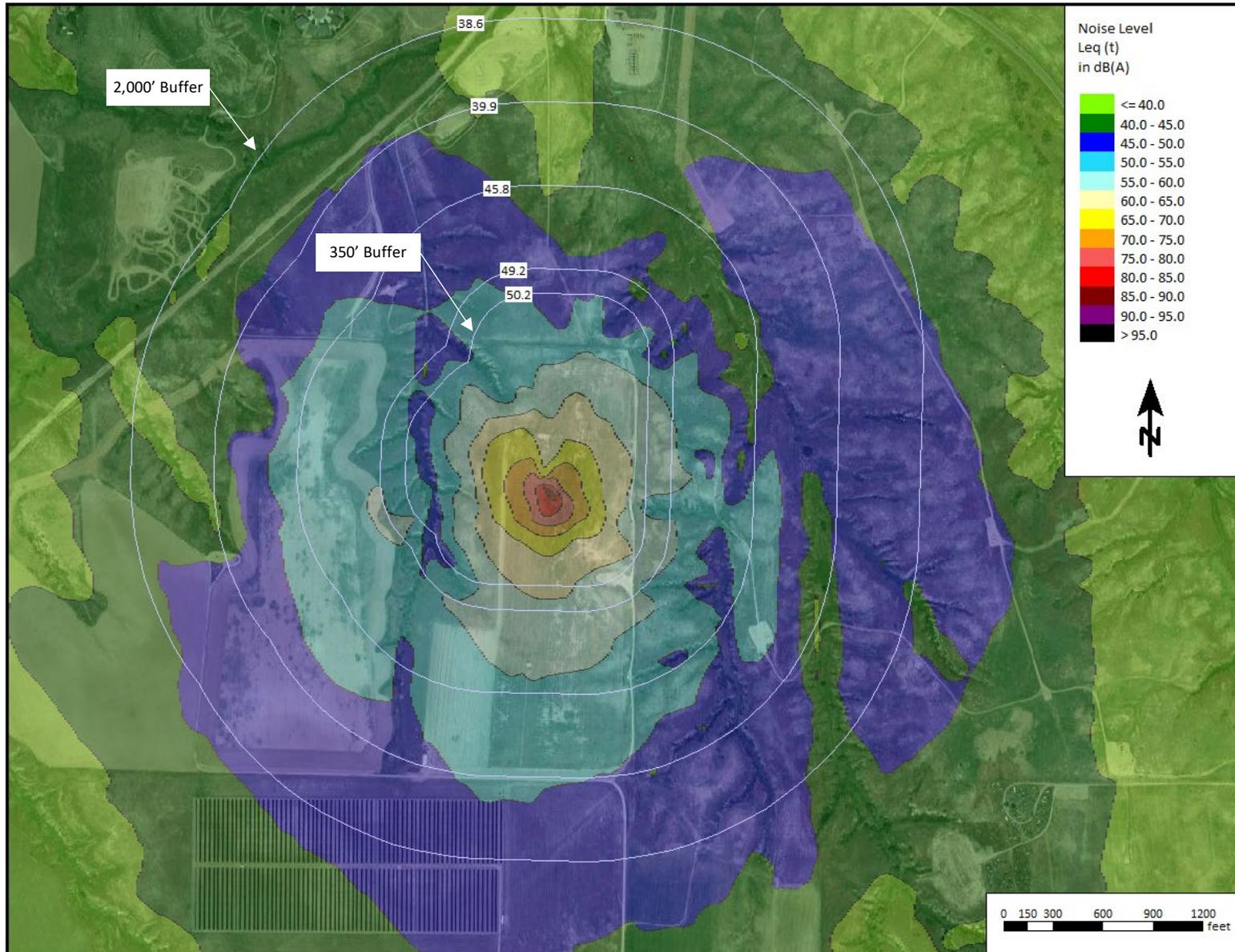
The predicted levels only include sound levels from drilling operations and do not include ambient noise or noise contributions from other sources outside of the planned operations.

Noise contour maps are provided for the area surrounding the Schmerge Pad. The contours are provided in 5 dB increments with the color scale indicating the sound level of each contour. Unmitigated drilling operations noise contour maps are presented in Figure 5 and Figure 6, whereas mitigated contours are shown in Figure 7 and Figure 8.

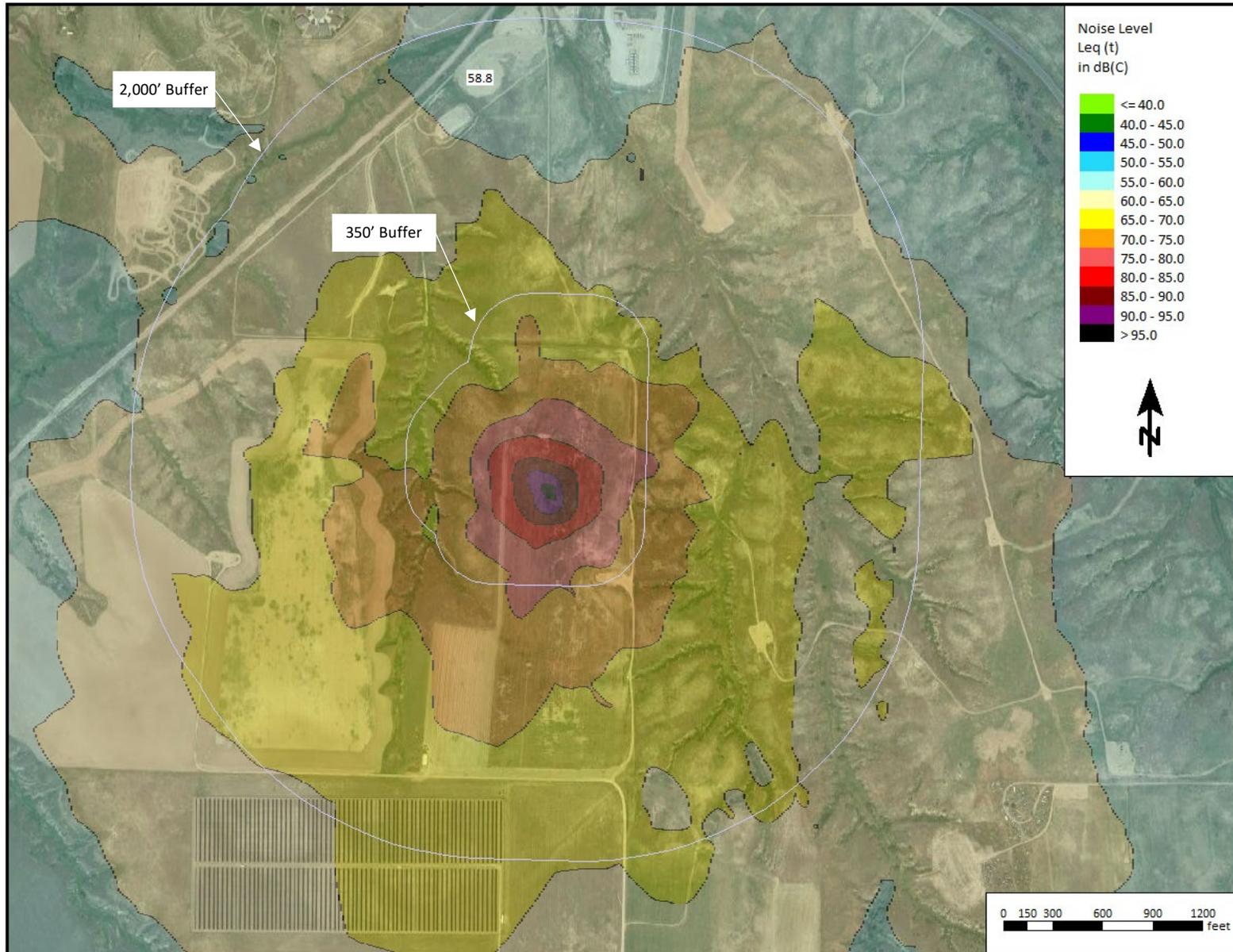
**Figure 4. Drilling Operations Perimeter Sound Wall**



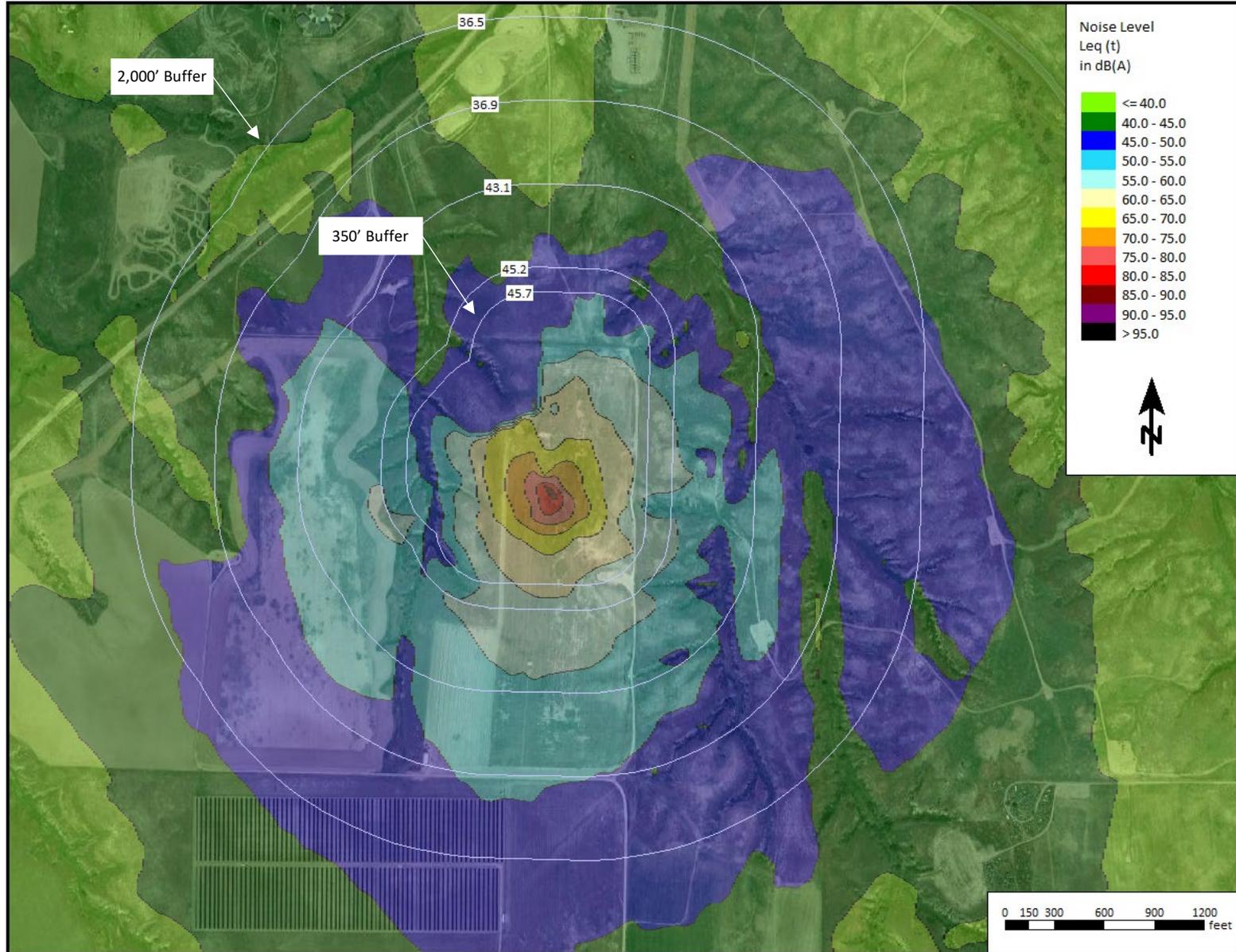
**Figure 5. Unmitigated Drilling Noise Contour Map (dBA)**



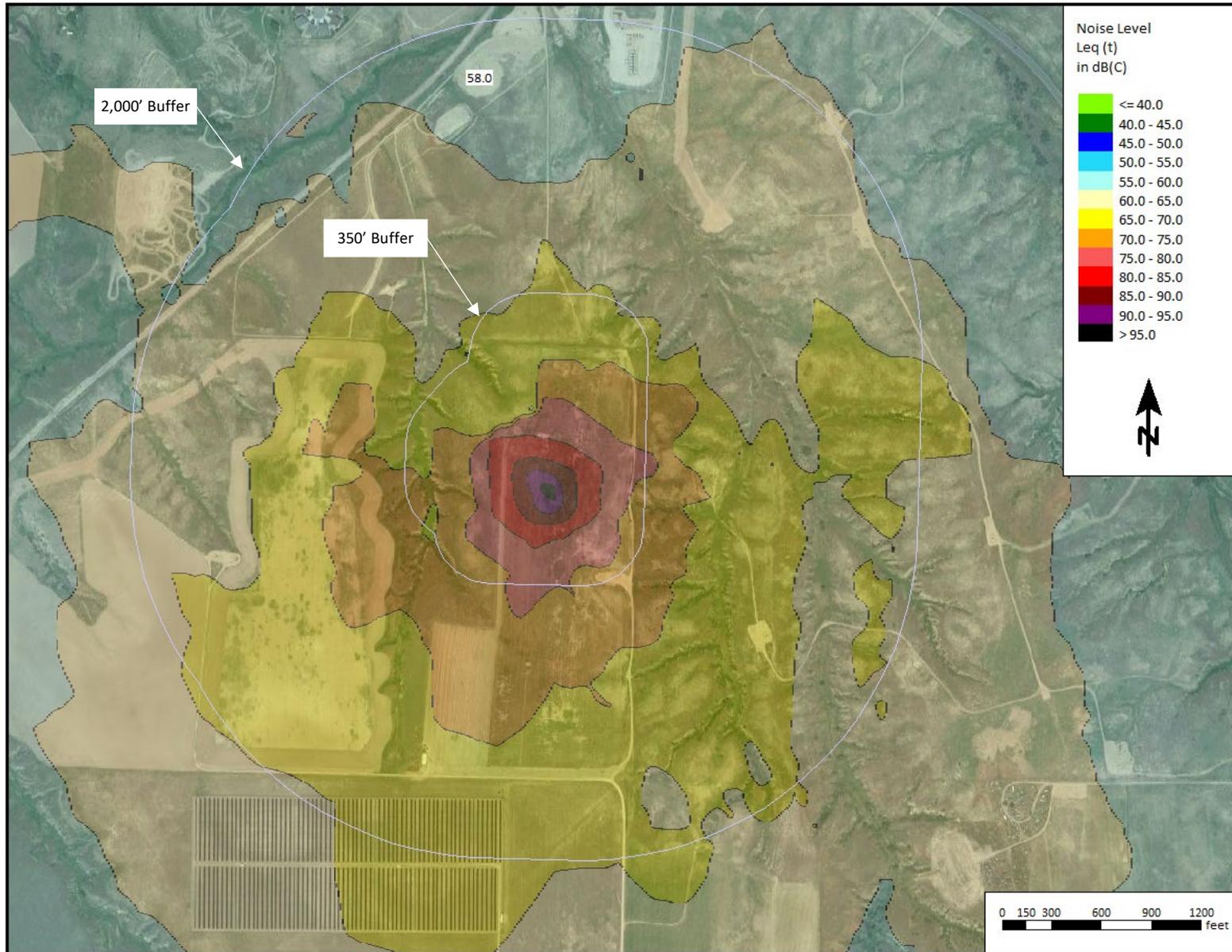
**Figure 6. Unmitigated Drilling Noise Contour Map (dBC)**



**Figure 7. Mitigated Drilling Noise Contour Map (dBA)**



**Figure 8. Mitigated Drilling Noise Contour Map (dBC)**



## **Completions Noise Model Results**

Results for both unmitigated and mitigated completions operations are presented in Table 10 below. The receptor locations in the table correspond to the locations identified in Figure 2 of Section 5.

The results demonstrate that unmitigated completions operations noise levels are above the A-weighted MPNL of 60 dBA and thus, require mitigation. The mitigation required for compliance includes a partial perimeter sound wall at the pad edge.

The perimeter sound wall layout is shown in Figure 9 on the next page and consists of approximately 500 linear feet of 32-foot-tall, engineered sound wall, rated at STC32.

**Table 10. Completions Operations Noise Model Results**

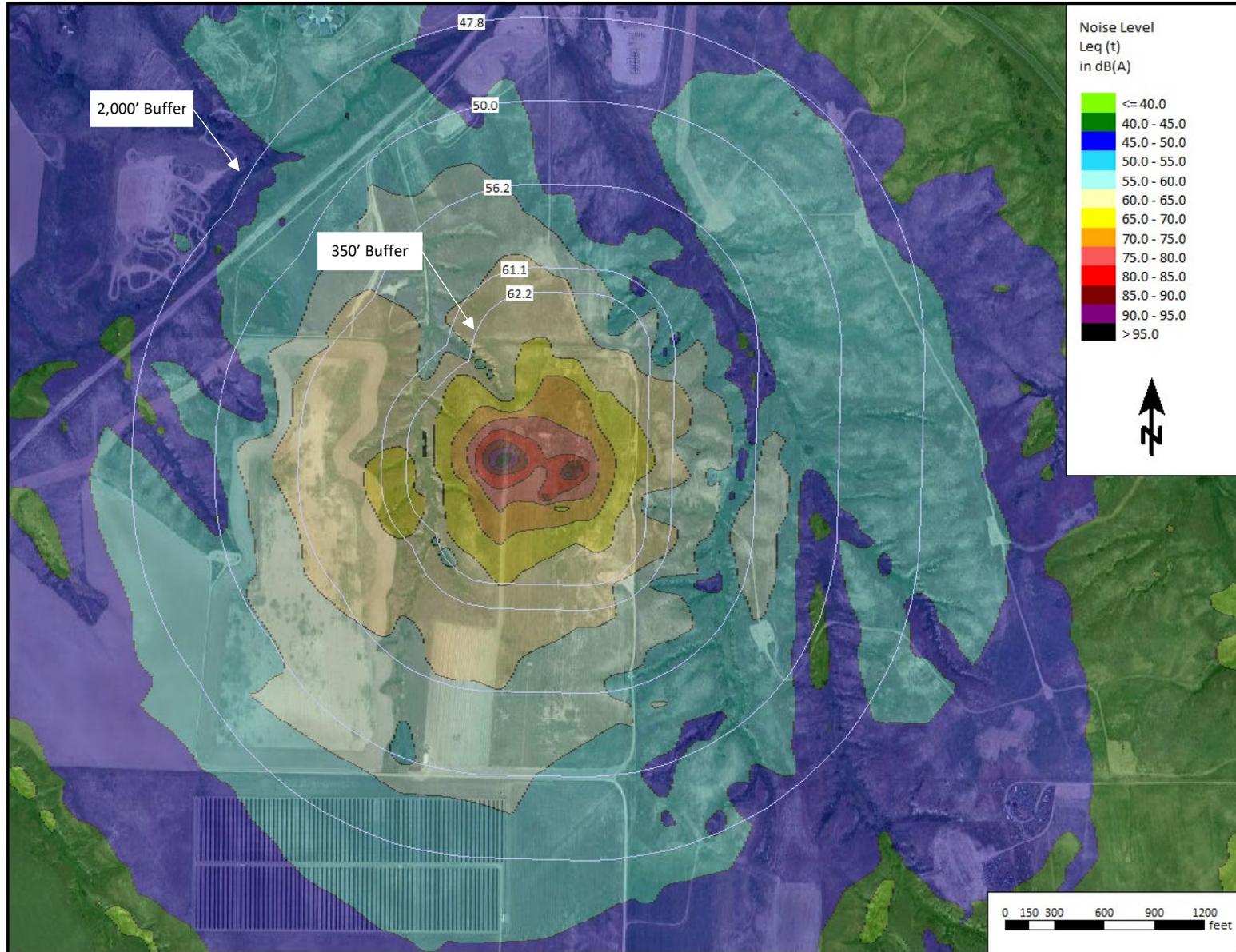
Receptor	Distance & Direction from the Working Pad Surface (feet)	Max Permissible Noise Level		Completions Unmitigated		Completions Mitigated	
		dBA	dBC	dBA	dBC	dBA	dBC
Receptor A	350 N	60.0	--	62.2	--	55.5	--
Receptor 1	1670 N	--	65.0	--	62.3	--	60.2

The predicted levels only include sound levels from completions operations and do not include ambient noise or noise contribution from other sources outside of the planned operations.

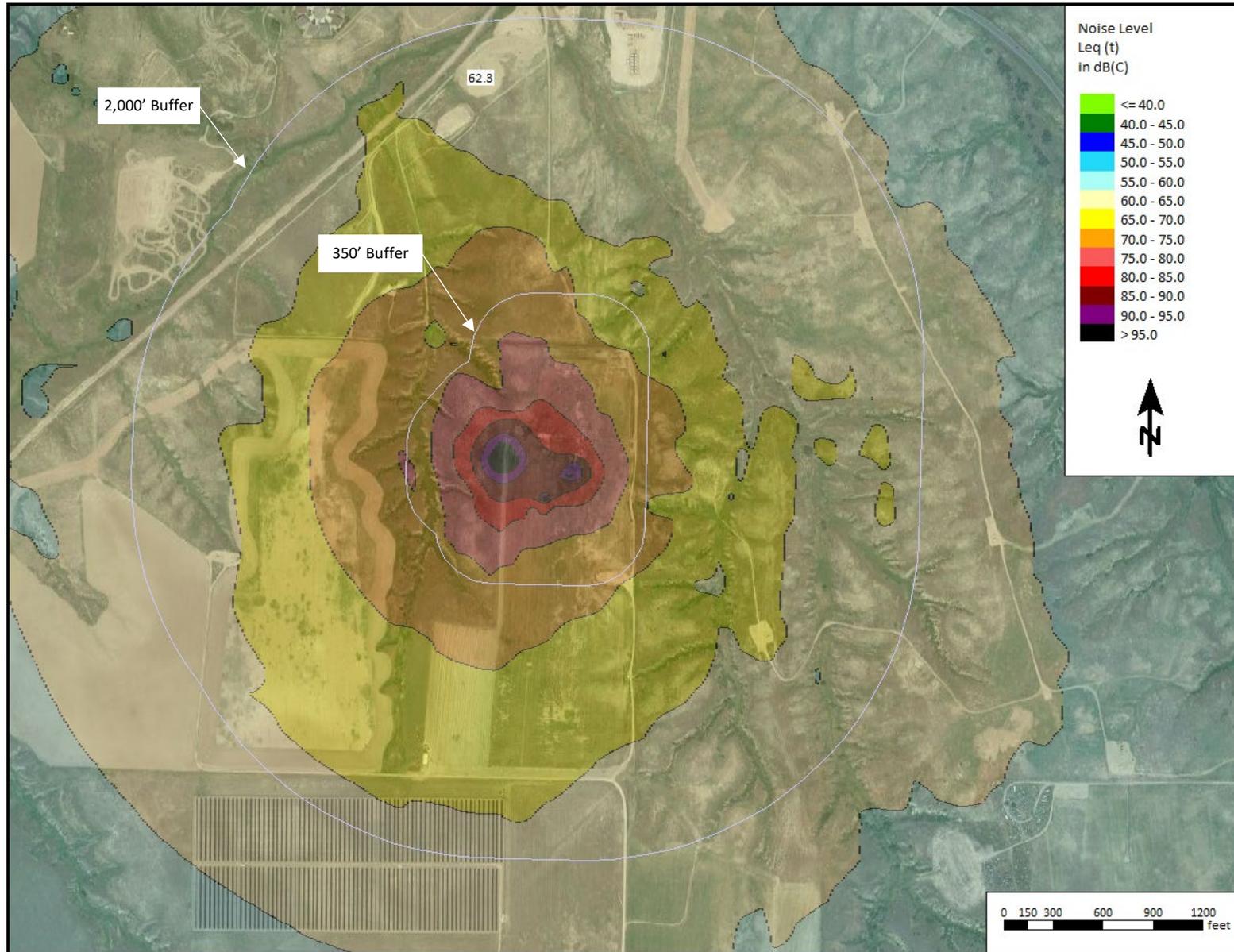
Noise contour maps are provided for the area surrounding the Schmerge location. The contours are provided in 5 dB increments with the color scale indicating the sound level of each contour. Unmitigated completions operations noise contour maps are presented in Figure 10 and Figure 11, whereas mitigated contours are shown in Figure 12 and Figure 13.



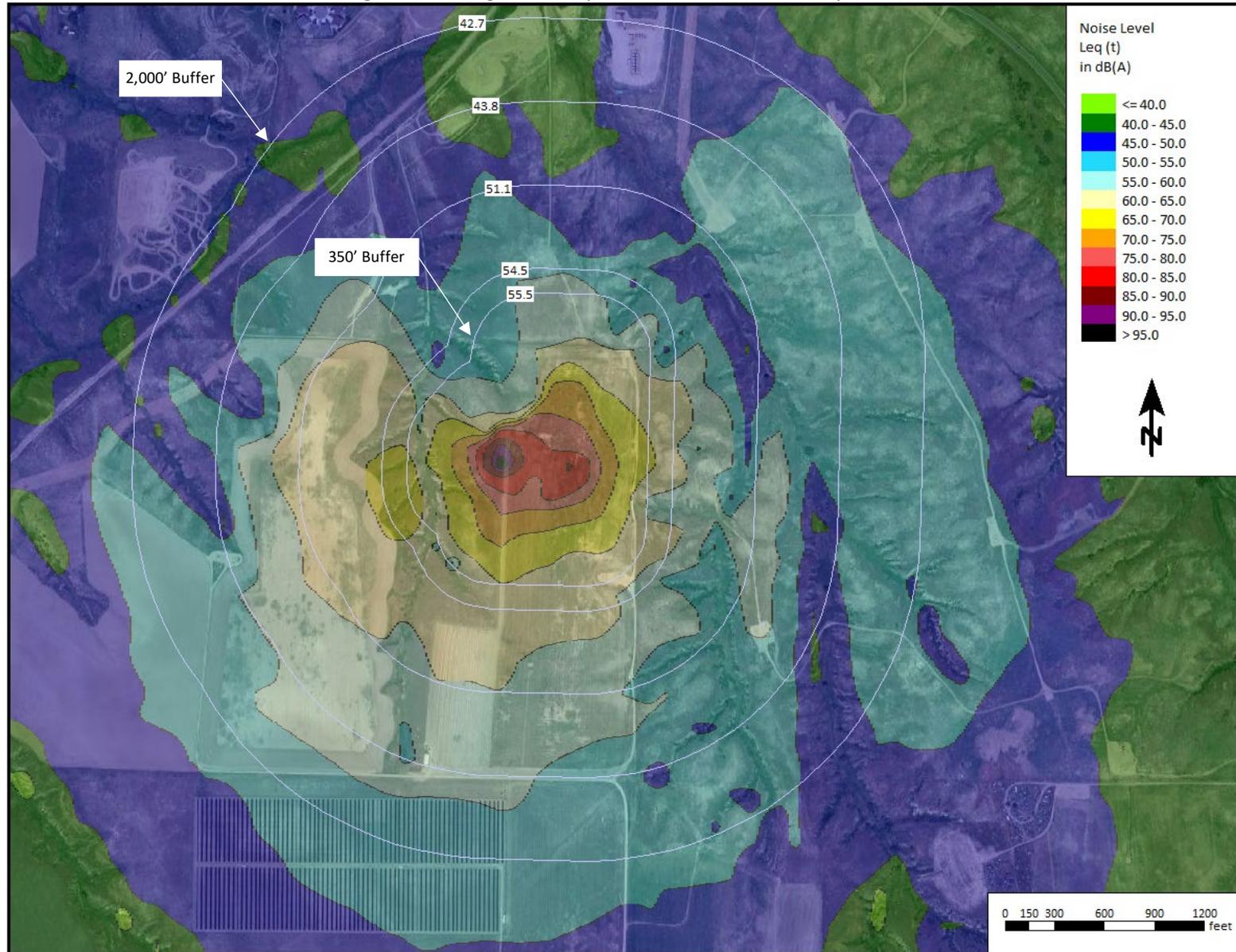
**Figure 10. Unmitigated Completions Noise Contour Map (dBA)**



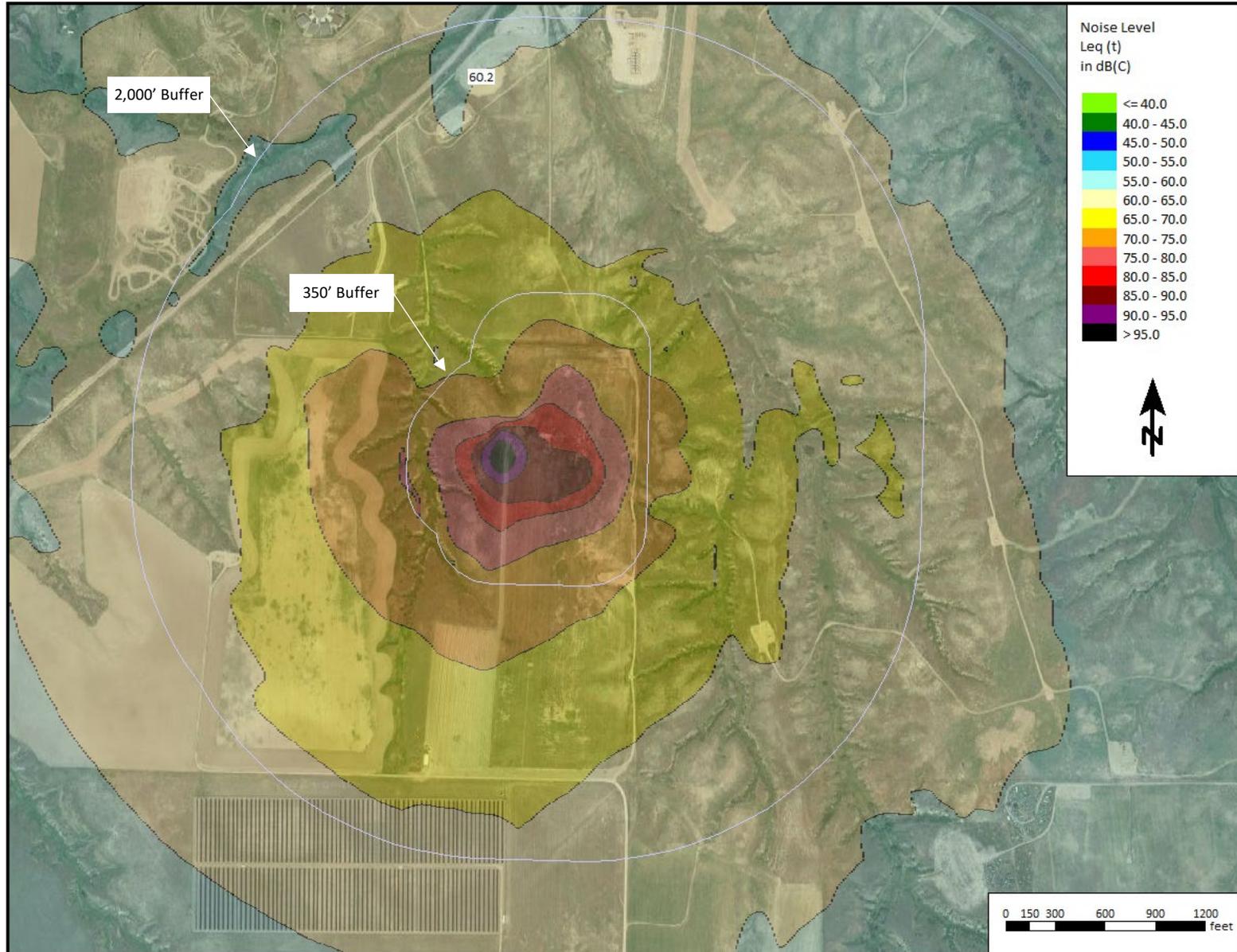
**Figure 11. Unmitigated Completions Noise Contour Map (dBC)**



**Figure 12. Mitigated Completions Noise Contour Map (dBA)**



**Figure 13. Mitigated Completions Noise Contour Map (dBC)**



## ***Production Noise Model Results***

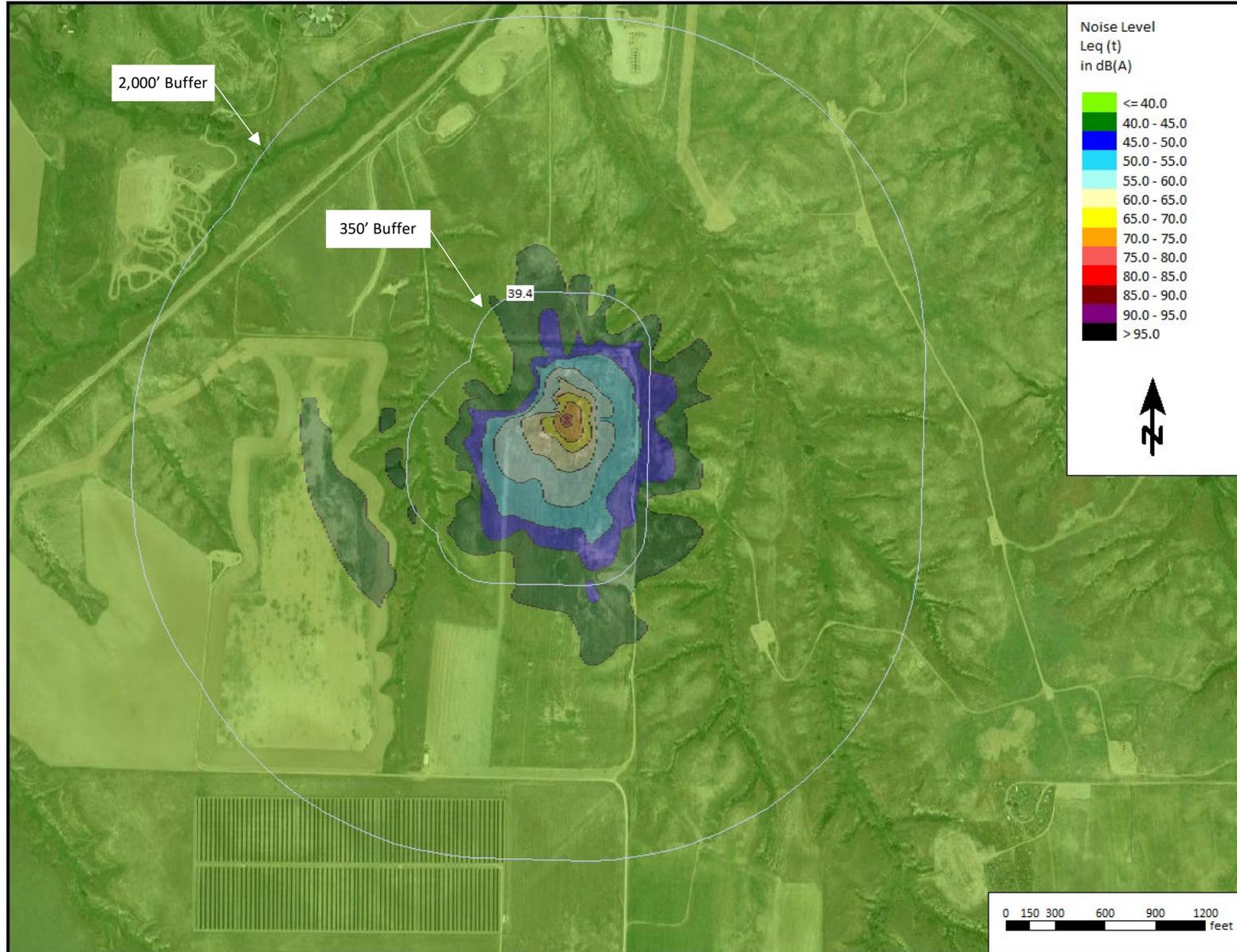
Model results for unmitigated production operations are presented in Table 11 below. The receptor locations in the table correspond to the locations identified in Figure 2 of Section 5. The predicted levels only include sound levels from production operations and do not include ambient noise or noise contribution from other sources outside of the planned operations.

**Table 11. Production Operations Noise Model Results**

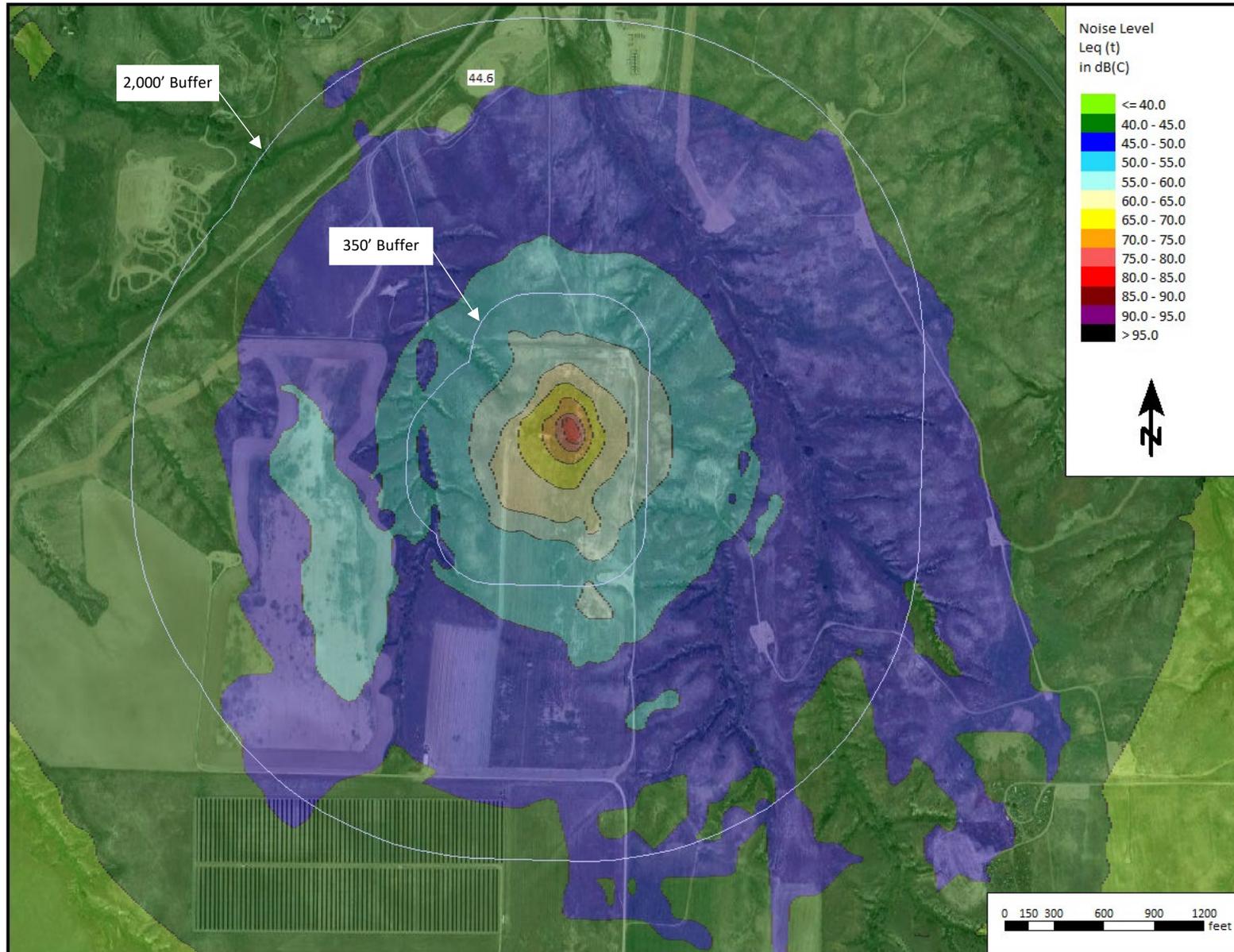
Receptor	Distance & Direction from the Working Pad Surface (feet)	Max Permissible Noise Level		Production Unmitigated	
		dBA	dBC	dBA	dBC
Receptor A	350 N	50.0	--	39.4	--
Receptor 1	1670 N	--	60.0	--	44.6

Noise contour maps are provided for the area surrounding the Schmerge location. The contours are provided in 5 dB increments with the color scale indicating the sound level of each contour. Unmitigated production operations noise contour maps are presented in Figure 14 and Figure 15 on the following pages.

**Figure 14. Unmitigated Production Noise Contour Map (dBA)**



**Figure 15. Unmitigated Production Noise Contour Map (dBC)**



## **Flowback Operations Review**

A review of flowback operations was carried out by Urban based on information supplied by KMOG. It was determined that flowback can be reduced to two simple, successive, operations from a noise perspective; these are “drill out” and “surface flow”. Both flowback operational components were assessed, and it was found that neither warrant noise modeling as outlined below.

The drill out operation utilizes equipment similar to a large production drilling rig, but much smaller in size, with reduced equipment quantities and produce much lower noise signatures as compared to the large production rig. This results in a noise signature of the drill out portion of flowback operation having much lower noise levels than either the production drilling rig or completions operations (on both a dBA and dBC basis).

The second part of the flowback operation is conducted once the drill out operation is complete, when well flows are initiated and directed to a series of temporary valves, screens, sand traps, separators, and mobile tanks instead of the production facility equipment. The temporary flowback equipment is similar to the production equipment already studied for production operations but utilizes smaller units with reduced quantities of individual equipment pieces, again with lower noise levels. This results in noise levels lower than the production operation studied in this assessment (on both a dBA and dBC basis). Since flowback operations are held to the higher MPNLs of preproduction operations instead of the lower MPNLs associated with production operations, there is very low risk from a nuisance environmental noise perspective for the surface flow portion of flowback operations.

Given the characteristics of the two components of the flowback operation outlined above and the fact that both the drill out and surface flow portions have noise levels significantly lower than other phases of operations assessed in this study, there is no need for special consideration (noise modeling, etc.) of the flowback operation as long as any perimeter sound walls needed for drilling/completions compliance are left in place until surface flows are initiated.



## 9 CONTINUOUS MONITORING / COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

Throughout the duration of preproduction operations, KMOG will conduct Continuous Noise Monitoring at the ambient monitoring point shown in Figure 3 of Section 7.

Continuous monitoring services are deployed to provide continuous noise level documentation and compliance verification throughout preproduction operations. If a noise complaint is made to either KMOG directly or to the COGCC, or to Weld County, or the Local Government Designee, and the operator is notified of the complaint, KMOG is able to reference continuous monitoring data and identify the source of any sound level 'spike(s)' throughout the monitoring period.

The sound level meters collect measurements of A and C-weighted decibel (dB) levels by continuously sampling sound levels, logging the specified data every minute. The meters are calibrated before and after the measurement period to ensure accuracy. They also have an internal system check function that runs daily and will issue an alert if necessary, so that any issues detected can be attended to promptly. The hourly Leq values shown in Continuous Noise Monitoring reporting are calculated by averaging 1-minute Leq noise levels when the wind is below 5 miles per hour, per COGCC Rule 423 and WOGLA Section 21-5-435, noise regulations.

KMOG will post contact information to receive and address noise complaints arising from preproduction operations around the clock, 24-hours, 7 days per week. Upon receipt of a complaint, either directly to KMOG or from the COGCC, or Weld County, KMOG will contact the associated stakeholder within 48 hours of receipt.

## 10 CONCLUSION

The results of the proactive planning, noise modeling, and implementation of Best Management Practices as discussed in this NMP indicate that noise levels generated by KMOG's proposed oil and gas operations at the Schmerge location are expected to comply with permissible noise levels required by both the COGCC Rule 423 and WOGLA Section 21-5-435, noise regulations for all operations proposed (drilling, completions, flowback, and production).

## 11 NOTATIONS

The services provided for this project were performed in accordance with generally accepted professional consulting services. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made or intended by rendition of these consulting services or by furnishing oral or written reports of the findings made. Urban Solution Group generated this report for the exclusive use of KMOG.

## **Appendix 1 – Equipment Layouts**



**Figure 17. Completions Equipment Layout for the Liberty Quiet Fleet**

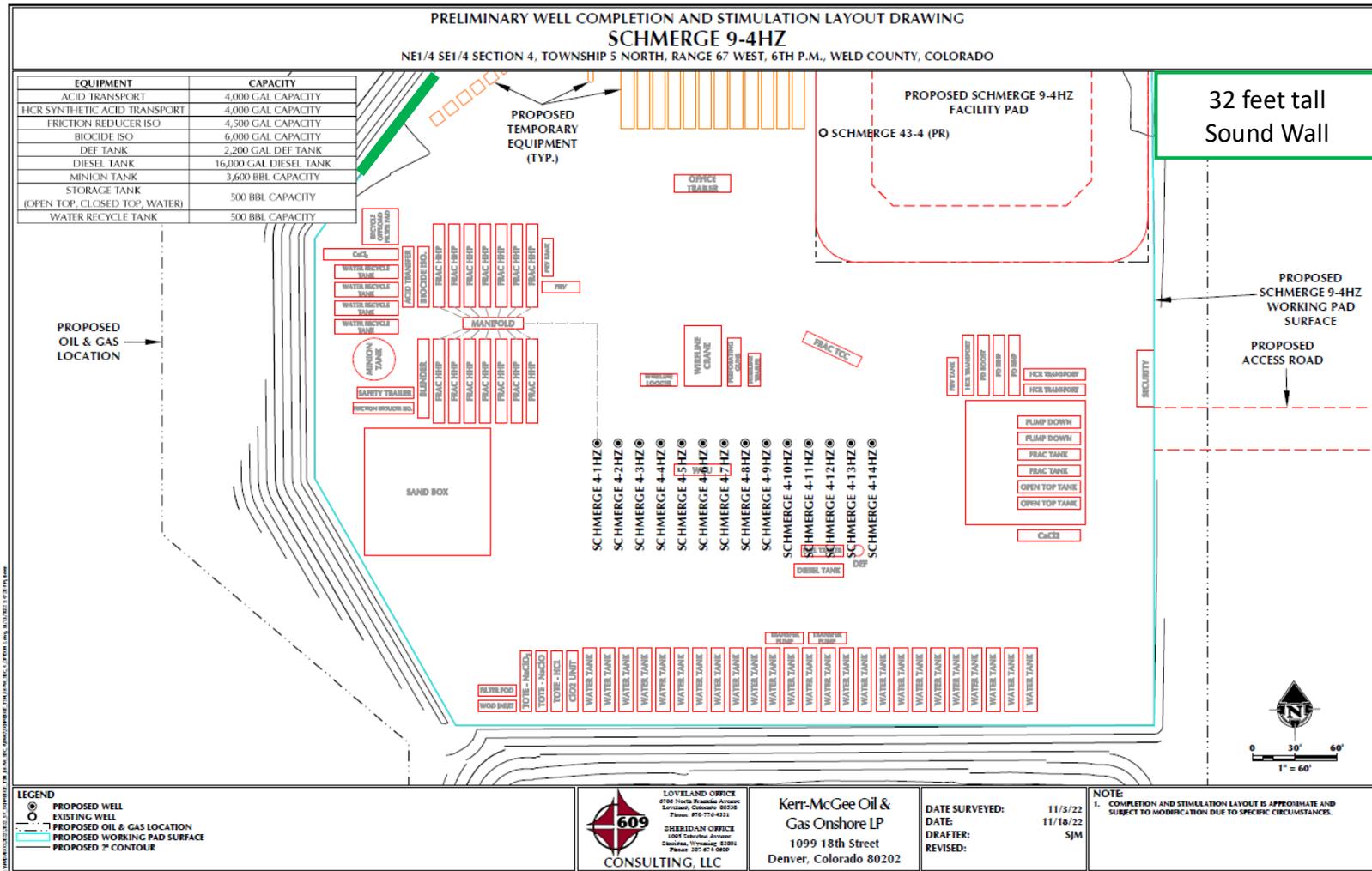
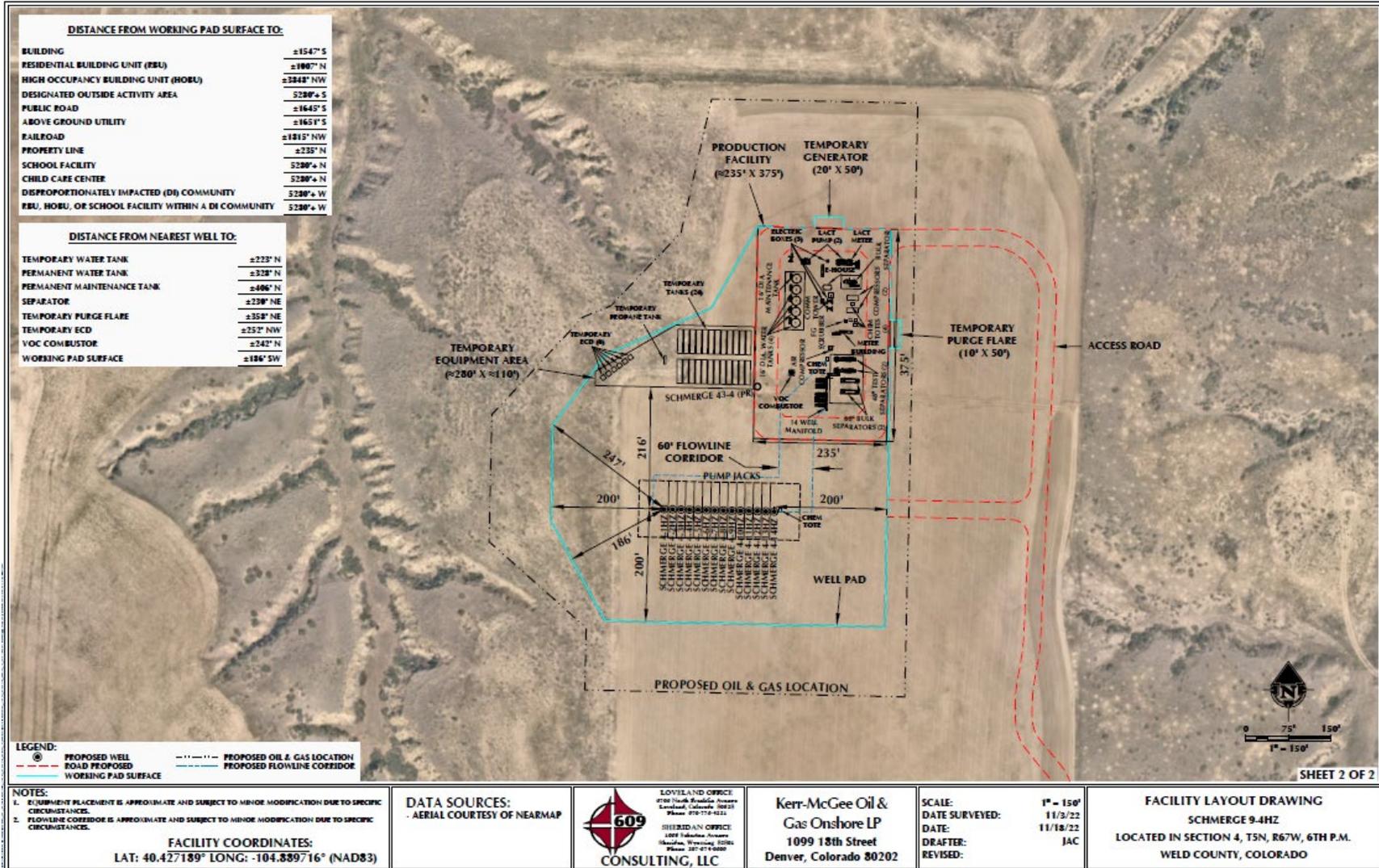
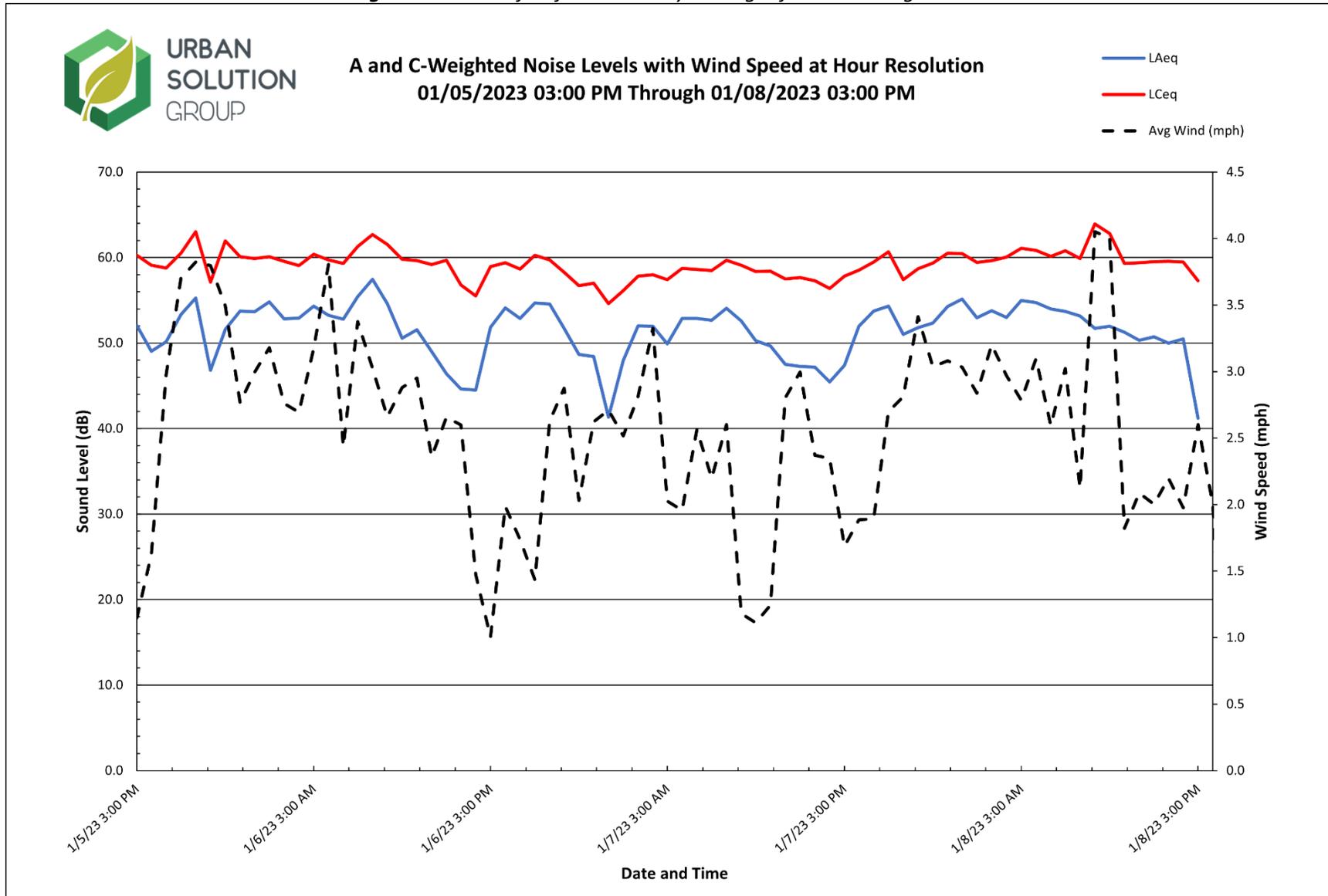


Figure 18. Production Equipment and Layout



## **Appendix 2 – Ambient Data and Charts**

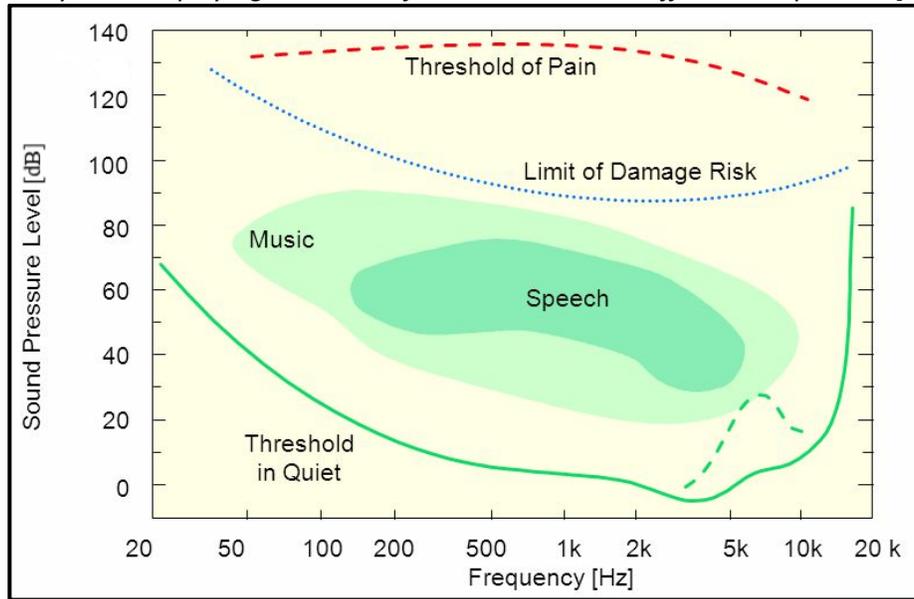
**Figure 19. Chart of Unfiltered Hourly Averages for Monitoring Point 1**



## **Appendix 3 – Sound Fundamentals**

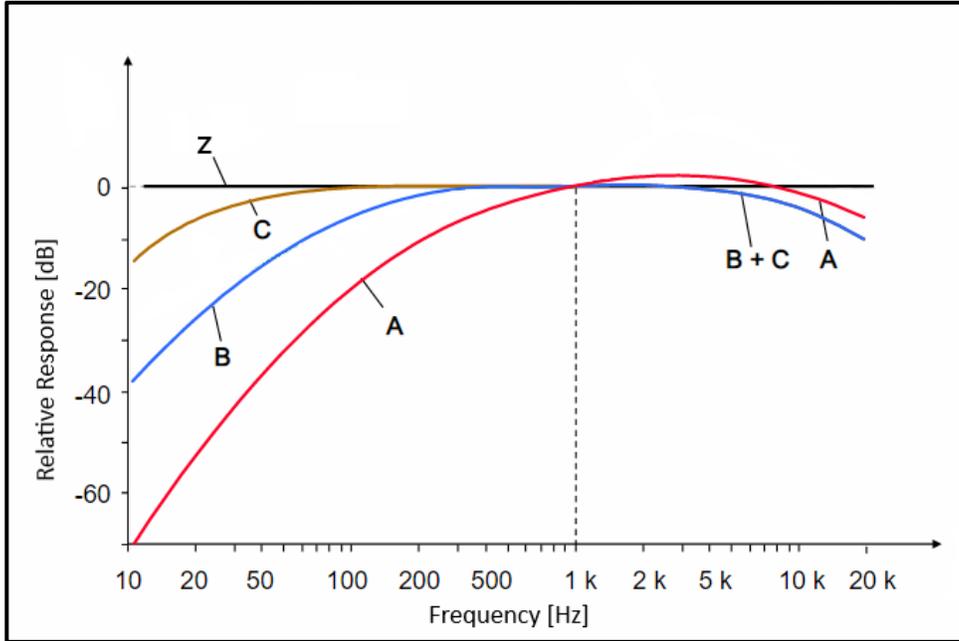
Sound is a series of vibrations transmitted through the air, or other medium, and can be heard when they are processed by the human ear. There are two important properties that describe sound; frequency and amplitude. Frequency is determined by the rate of movement and is measured in cycles per second, which is known as Hertz (Hz). A healthy human ear can hear 20 Hz – 20,000 Hz (Figure A). The sensation associated with frequency is commonly referred to as the pitch of a sound. High frequencies produce a higher pitch and vice versa. The amplitude of a sound is determined by the maximum displacement of air molecules produced by the vibrations. These displacements lead to pressure fluctuations in air, which are expressed in decibels (dB). Decibels are a logarithmic ratio of sound pressure over the standard threshold of hearing. The more energy a sound has, the larger the pressure fluctuations, resulting in a louder sound.

**Figure A: Auditory Field Displaying Thresholds for a Human Ear at Different Frequencies [Bruel and Kjaer]**



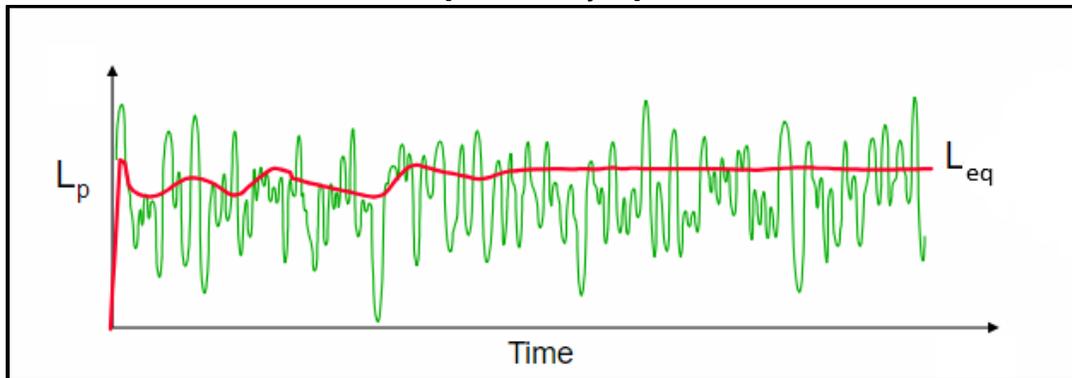
Frequency weightings are applied to measurements to provide a better match between measured results and human perception. Each weighting, in relation to their frequency components, allows for a consistent measurement of the different type of noise sources. A-weighted decibel sound pressure levels (dBA) are measurements recorded from a sound level meter measuring sounds similar to the response of the ear (Figure B). While C-weighted (dBC) measurements are for low-frequency components.

**Figure B: Common Sound Weightings Up to 20 kHz, Z-Weighting Means No Weighting [Bruel and Kjaer]**



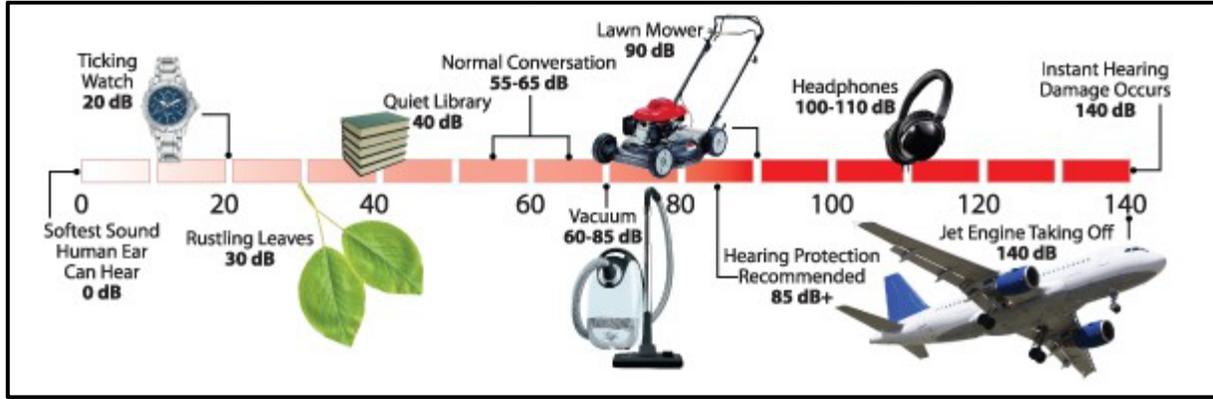
Each measurement has an exponential time factor. Slow time weighting is the most common for environmental noise measurements and will be used for these measurements. For recording over long periods of time, the sound level meter records each weighted decibel reading with an equivalent, or average, continuous sound level reading ( $L_{eq}$ ).  $L_{eq}$  represents the same energy as the actual time varying sound signal (Figure C).  $L_{Aeq}$  refers to the equivalent continuous sound level for an A-weighted measurement.

**Figure C: Sound Level Recording Displaying  $L_{eq}$ , a Steady-State Sound Level, Over a Noise Measurement [Bruel and Kjaer]**



Environmental noise is a combination of various noise sources. These sources may include; vehicle traffic, aircraft flyovers, wind, weather disturbances, commercial or industrial activities, and other short-term events. These sources create “background noise”. Background noise varies throughout the day, generally following the cycle of human activity. Figure D below presents typical A-weighted (dBA) sound levels for common sources of sound.

**Figure D: Common A-weighted Sound Levels [City of Albuquerque]**



## **Appendix 4 – Glossary**

### **Ambient Noise**

All noises that exist in an area and are not related to facility. Ambient noise includes sound from other industrial noise not subject to this directive, transportation sources, animals and nature.

### **Average Sound Level**

See Energy Equivalent Sound Level.

### **A-weighted sound level**

The sound level as measured on a sound level meter using a setting that emphasizes the middle frequency components similar to the frequency response of the human ear.

### **Calibration**

A procedure used for the adjustment of a sound level meter using a reference source of a known sound pressure level and frequency. Calibration must take place before and after the sound level measurements.

### **C-weighted Sound Level**

The C-weighting approximates the sensitivity of human hearing at the industrial noise levels (above 85 dBA). The C-weighted sound level is more sensitive to the sounds used to assess the low- frequencies than the A-weighted sound level. It is sometimes used to assess the low-frequency content of complex sound environments.

### **Day Night Sound Level (Ldn)**

Is the average noise level over a 24-hour period. The noise between the hours of 22:00 and 07:00 is artificially increased by 10 dB. The nighttime noise is weighted to consider the decrease in community background noise.

### **Daytime Average Sound Level**

The time-averaged A-weighted sound level measured between the daytime hours, which are usually 7:00 am to 7:00 pm (7:00 am to 9:00 pm for Weld County Code).

### **Decibel (dB)**

A unit of measure of sound pressure that compresses a large range of numbers into a more meaningful scale. The basic unit of measurement for sound levels.

### **dBA**

The decibel (dB) sound pressure level filtered through the A filtering network to approximate human hearing response. See dB and A-weighted Sound Level.

### **dBC**

The decibel (dB) sound pressure level filtered through the C filtering network. See dB and C-weighted Sound Level.



### **Energy Equivalent Sound Level ( $L_{eq}$ )**

The  $L_{eq}$  is a single-number average, sound level that represents cumulative acoustical energy as measured over a specified time interval.

### **Facility**

Any operation used in exploration, processing, development and transportation of energy resources.

### **Frequency**

The number of oscillations per second for a sound wave.

### **Impulse Noise**

Unwanted, instantaneous sharp sounds that create sudden impulses of pressure similar to gunfire and explosions.

### **Noise Reduction**

The difference in sound pressure level between two points

### **L<sub>dn</sub>**

See Day night sound level.

### **$L_{eq}$**

See Energy Equivalent Sound Level.

### **Noise**

Generally understood as unwanted sound.

### **Noise Impact Assessment (NIA)**

Identifies the expected sound level emanating from operations and receptor points are placed in locations related to compliance. It also identifies what the permissible sound level is and how it was calculated.

### **Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC)**

A single number rating of the sound absorption properties for a material. An NRC value of zero indicates the material is purely reflective. An NRC value of one indicates perfect absorption.

### **Octave**

A series of electronic filters separate sound into discrete frequency bands, making it possible to know how sound energy is distributed as a function of frequency. The octave band has a center frequency that is double the center frequency of the octave band preceding it.

### **Point Source**

A source that radiates sound from a single point. Generally used to model equipment when looking at the sound impact over a large area.



**Receiver**

A person or piece of equipment that is affected by noise.

**Sound**

A series of vibrations transmitted through the air, or other medium, and can be heard when they are processed by the human ear.

**Sound Level Meter (SLM)**

An instrument that contains a microphone and filter used to measure sound levels, using standard frequency-weightings and exponentially weighted time averaging.

**Sound Power Level**

A physical measurement of the amount of power a sound source radiates into the surrounding air. It is the rate at which sound energy is emitted, or received, per unit time.

**Sound Pressure Level (SPL)**

The sound level received at a given location. The decibel equivalent of the rate of sound pressure waves at a measured location, usually with a microphone.

**Sound Transmission Class (STC)**

An integer rating that measures how well a barrier or building partition attenuates sound. Indicates how well a barrier is at stopping sound from transmitting through it.

**1/3 Octave**

The 1/3 octave band analysis provides a finer breakdown of sound distribution as a function of frequency.

