

**Deep Geothermal  
PRE-APPLICATION MEETING**



Meeting Date: **October 18, 2023**

Staff Specialist: **Jason Maxey**

Location Name: **GLADE Geothermal**

Parcel Number(s): **121102000017**

Operator/Applicant: **Oxy, USA**

Legal Description: **NESE Section 2, Township 3 North, Range 66 West of the 6th P.M., Weld County, Colorado**

Invitees: **Matt Wells (Oxy), Andy Lytle (Oxy), Sarah Clark (Oxy), Sabrina Trask (ECMC), Ben Frissell (ECMC), John Noto (ECMC), Brandon Marette (CPW), Lexi Hamous (CPW), Jason Maxey (OGED), Kelly Holliday (OGED), Jennifer Teeters (OGED), Stephanie Frederick (OGED), Elisa Kunkel (OGED), Rob Burton (OGED), Natalie DeLaCroix (Planning Department), Laura Gomez (Planning Department), Jazmyn Trujillo Martinez (Planning Department), Max Nader (Planning Department), Kim Ogle (Planning Department), Ryan Fernandez (Env. Health), David Burns (OEM).**

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**Meeting Summary**

**Weld County Presentation:**

Oxy USA (Oxy) submitted a pre-application meeting request for the GLADE Geothermal project (Project) to the Weld County Oil & Gas Energy Department (OGED or Staff) on September 25, 2023. The pre-application meeting was held on, October 18, 2023, at 1:00 PM. In attendance were Matt Wells (Oxy), Kelsey Olson (Oxy), Sarah Clark (Oxy), Kris Honas (Oxy), Stephanie Madrid (Oxy), Loryn Spady (Oxy), Tracy Colling (Oxy), Tony Lupica (Oxy), Julie Coleman (Oxy), Chad Brebis (Oxy), John Piekara (Oxy), Rachel Friedman (Oxy), Ryan Rhodes (Oxy), Jay Bridgeman (Oxy), Ben Frissell (ECMC), Doug Andrews (ECMC), John Morgan (ECMC), Brandon Marette (CPW), Lexi Hamous (CPW), Peter Foote (CPW), Brian Magee (CPW), Jason Maxey (OGED), Kelly Holliday (OGED), Jennifer Teeters (OGED), Stephanie Frederick (OGED), Elisa Kunkel (OGED), Rob Burton (OGED), Dawn Anderson (Planning Department), Natalie DeLaCroix (Planning Department), Laura Gomez (Planning Department), Jazmyn Trujillo Martinez (Planning Department), Max Nader (Planning Department), Kim Ogle (Planning Department), Ryan Fernandez (Env. Health), Lauren Light (Env. Health), Duane Naibauer (Public Works), Kristel Castro, Darien O'Brien and Riley Edwards.

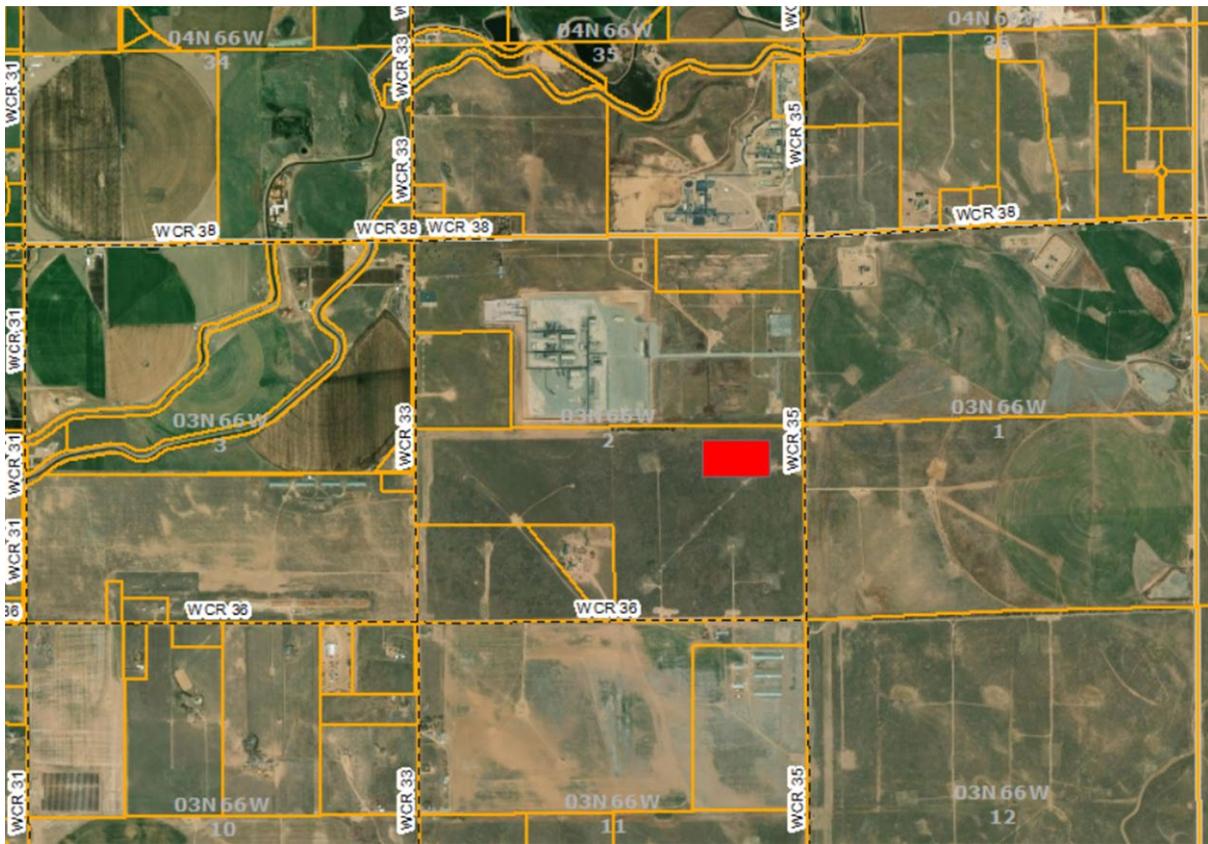
Andy Lytle (Oxy), Sabrina Trask (ECMC), John Noto (ECMC), Rob Burton (OGED), David Burns (OEM), were invited but either declined the invitation, or were unable to attend.

The Project is proposed to be located in the NESE of Section 2, T3N, R66W, with no minerals being developed as geothermal projects are not intended for mineral development. This Project will include two (2) wells, initially drilling to a vertical depth of approximately 10,500', with an ultimate approximate depth of 20,000'. The

anticipated start date of operations is planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024 for drilling, with construction of the pad potentially being 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024.

The proposed location is outside of any floodplain, geological hazards, MS4, wetlands, and overlay districts. There are no Building Units (residential single-family homes or commercial facilities) within 2,000' of the proposed Project location. The nearest building unit (home) appears to be to the southwest, approximately 2,200' from the edge of disturbance of the proposed Project location. There are no Schools, School Facilities or Child Care Centers within 2,000' of the proposed Project location. Oxy has an executed Surface Use Agreement in place, which is dated 3-22-23 and recorded with the Weld County Clerk & Recorder under reception #4887978.

The proposed location (shown as the red rectangle on the map below) is zoned Agriculture. Within 2,000' of the proposed Project location, there is oil and gas upstream and midstream facilities (primarily to the north / northeast), and farmland / rangeland. There is no High Priority Habitat (HPH) or HPH buffers on the parcel in question. The closest HPH designated area is approximately 3,700' directly south and is due to a bald eagle active nest designation.



There are no municipal boundaries close to this location. The closest municipal boundaries are the Town of Platteville which is approximately 3.5 miles to the west / southwest, and the Town of Gilcrest which is approximately 3.0 miles to the northwest.

The proposed Project location is located within the Ag-Rural Planning Area.



**Haul Route and Access:**

A haul route map is a required item to include with the pre-application request – it is shown to the left. Discussion points and Staff observations include the following:

1. CR 35 and CR 32 are both designated as collector status roadways.
2. CR 35 is gravel, and CR 32 is paved.
3. The haul route shows 100% of the traffic exiting the property and heading south to CR 32 for dispersion west and east.
4. Oxy requested a cash-in-lieu option for this Project. However, during discussion it was mentioned that the decision for or against a cash-in-lieu payment would need to be discussed in more detail. Public Works / Development Review will need to have discussions with Oxy, and also discuss any improvements or maintenance agreements which may be needed for this haul route.
5. Access was reviewed, and spacing concerns were discussed based on current aerial imagery.

However, the parcel has recently had some reclamation work performed and the access shown on the imagery may have already been closed and reclaimed. Oxy will work with Development Review to submit the necessary information for a new access point to the parcel.

**Alternate Location Discussion:**

No alternative siting was discussed, due to the nature of geothermal wells needing to be placed in very specific locations above the source rock. The location was chosen due to the sub-surface research Oxy has performed in the area.

**Proximate Local Government Discussion:**

There are no proximate local governments, therefore there was no discussion on this topic.

**Referral Agency Discussion:**

CPW (Brandon Marette, Lexi Hamous, Brian Magee, and Peter Foote) attended the meeting.

1. No part of the parcel or the proposed Project location is within any mapped HPH area.

2. A portion of the haul route (CR 35) passes through a 1202.c and 309.e.1 mapped area, which is identified as a bald eagle nest site.
3. During discussion of the haul route, CPW asked if the haul route could be changed to not impact (travel through) the eagle's nest buffer. Weld County responded the comment would be taken under advisement, but that the County Road is already built, it is used by residents and businesses, and it is designated a collector roadway. CPW asked about Oxy abiding by timing stipulations if the route could not be changed. Oxy said depending on schedules they will discuss this option and look into this possibility.
4. Will there be any P&A activity associated with this Project? Oxy responded "no".
5. Will there be a power station associated with this Project? Oxy responded "no plans for this during this phase of the project – these are test wells".

ECMC (Ben Frissell, Doug Andrews and John Morgan) attended the meeting.

1. Will there be oil & gas produced due to this development? Oxy responded "no".
2. Discussion / updates related to the ECMC geothermal rulemaking was discussed by Ben.
3. How long will it take to drill the wells? Oxy said they plan on 60 days per well. Based on rate of penetration, they may be able to complete each well in a shorter timeframe, but it will be no longer than 60 days.
4. John mentioned the meeting seems to be more surface related, so he didn't think there was anything more to add since he is focused on sub-surface. OGED replied that John is correct – Weld focuses on the surface use, and we do not regulate sub-surface. However, there is overlap with both jurisdictions and there will be dialogue and working together on this Project.

#### **Additional Information from Oxy:**

Oxy discussed the general scope of the project. It is intended as a pilot project to test drilling deep geothermal wells. While there will be a drilling rig on location for the wells, unlike oil & gas development there is no completions phase so all the associated activity with that phase will not happen with this development.

Oxy identified this location as a potential "hot spot" that is conducive to a geothermal project. Thus, the reason for this test location to determine the geothermal viability.

#### **Additional Location Details:**

1. There is a high-pressure gas line on the parcel (USR18-0094), however this line does not appear in conflict with the proposed location.
2. Weld County Code
  - a. The proposed location is zoned Agriculture and in the Ag-Rural Planning Area, and will more than likely be designated by Staff as LZ-1.
  - b. A noise level was not designated. However, it was discussed that an ambient noise study would be recommended, and that a noise impact study may be required.
  - c. An odor mitigation plan, dust mitigation plan, and waste mitigation plan may be required.
  - d. Drainage and Grading – Natalie stated she did not currently see anything of concern regarding drainage. She would recommend the typical drainage requirements would apply. If more than one acre is disturbed a grading permit would be required.

#### **Conclusion:**

Considering all the information provided and subsequent discussion, Staff expressed no concerns with moving forward with the proposed Location. Staff mentioned this direction in no way indicates a permit would be approved, but rather there were no concerns with proceeding forward. Since there is no defined

process for geothermal projects with Weld County, this may be considered under a pilot project. Staff will continue working with Oxy as this project progresses.