



**File Code:** 1900 / 2700

**Date:** March 5, 2004

**Subject:** Scoping – Request by Buckeye Rural Electric to re-route a portion of existing distribution line; and by EOG Resources to develop an access and bury collection lines needed to drill, service, and transport gas from two wells on adjacent private property.

**To:** Friend of the Wayne National Forest

The Wayne National Forest has received two Special Use requests affecting National Forest ownership on the Ironton District. One request is from Buckeye Rural Electric to re-route a portion of their distribution line, converting from a cross-country to a roadside location. This project is in T5N, R17W, SW ¼ Sec. 22 and NW ¼ of Sec. 27 in Symmes Township of Lawrence County along Lawrence County Road # 47.

The other request is from EOG Resources proposing to access two wells on adjacent private property for drilling and maintenance, and to connect these to an existing well on USA with a buried gasline. All of this EOG project work follows existing roadways. We are providing you with specific information on these proposals, and inviting you to send us your ideas and concerns or let us know of any significant issues that you feel should be considered.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED**

The Buckeye Rural relocation project would eliminate approximately 1,000 feet of cross-country right-of-way across the end of a deep drainage, moving the line to the adjacent Lawrence County Road # 47 corridor. This segment of powerline is in need of repair, and relocation would reduce fragmentation of this forested section of National Forest, while providing the power company with easier maintenance. Wire and poles would be removed from the abandoned segment and the corridor would be allowed to regenerate.

The EOG access and pipeline project would require use of approximately 1,300 feet of existing roadway to access the two wells on adjacent private property, and the pipeline lay would utilize about 3,000 feet of a ridge road to the north to connect these two private wells to the existing acquired well on the Bradley Tract. The private wells being accessed are surrounded by National Forest and would require crossing USA somewhere. These old ridge roads provide the most direct and environmentally sound routes available.

The National Forest lands on the Wayne National Forest are interspersed with private and other publicly owned lands. This ownership pattern often results in the need to provide access across National Forest to private or public entities. Each request for the use of NFS lands is considered on a case-by-case basis. The Forest Service evaluates the proposed use for the requested site, including the environmental effects. If approved, these requests are permitted under a special-use authorization.



## **PROPOSED ACTION**

The proposed action is to issue special-use authorizations to allow Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative to re-route a segment of their electric distribution line to a roadside location, and to allow EOG Resources to access two private wells and install collection lines to remove the gas from them. Any soil disturbance resulting from either project would be re-vegetated according to Forest reclamation and seeding requirements. The Special Use authorizations will contain requirements necessary to ensure full compliance with laws, regulations, policies and Forest Plan direction.

Maps depicting the locations of the proposals are attached as Exhibit A..

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

We are interested in your comments on the proposed projects. If you have any comments, please let us know at the address above or by phone by the close of business on March 24, 2004.

If, through the analysis, it is determined that the proposed projects would be a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA guidelines (40 CFR Part 1500). The District Ranger will be the deciding officer.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Gloria Chrismer*

Gloria Chrismer  
District Ranger

attachments