

Advertise with us

Report this ad

Deseret News

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue, Deseret News

Follow @amyjoi16

Published: Thursday, April 7 2016 6:20 p.m. MDT

Updated: 3 hours ago

Search

NATIONAL EDITION

Print | Font [+]
[-] | Leave a comment »



Home or hospital? What expecting parents need to know about where to have their baby



The need for Christian voters in our broken political system — a Q&A with Franklin Graham



Tackling fear: A child's age should govern what you say in aftermath of unspeakable acts

Sign up for news updates

Email Address



FILE: Nighttime view of an oil refinery in North Salt Lake, Utah.

Deseret News

[Enlarge photo](#)

Summary

The Bureau of Land Management completed a draft review of a utility corridor needed as part of an effort to tap Utah's rich oil shale resources. The project would be the first in the United States and yield up to 50,000 barrels of oil a day.

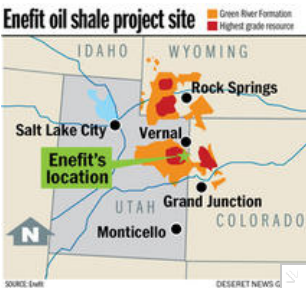
SALT LAKE CITY — The world may be overflowing with a glut of oil, but that has not stopped an Estonia company from pursuing what would be the United States' first commercial production of oil shale in a remote section of Utah.

After three years of preparation, the Bureau of Land Management on Thursday released a [draft environmental review](#) of a proposed right of way for a utility corridor necessary for Enefit's planned South Project 40 miles south of Vernal.

None of the oil shale that would be mined and processed for a potential 50,000-barrels-a-day operation would come from federal land. But overhead power lines, road upgrades and a trio of other utility lines for natural gas, oil product and water would impact some federal land.

Mining of the actual shale would take place on between 7,000 and 9,000 acres of private property and land owned by the state.

"We have worked closely and cooperated fully with the BLM and other federal, state and local agencies since the environmental review process began in late 2012," Enefit American Oil's chief executive officer, Rikki



SOURCE: Envt

DESERET NEWS

Instant Savings Sale
FREE INSTALLATION on ADT Pulse®
 Video
 a Savings of \$449
 ACT NOW

*36 month monitoring contract required with EasyPay and Extended Warranty. Termination fee applies. See important terms and pricing here.

Advertise with us

Report this ad

Most Popular

In Utah | Across Site

- Watch: Empey is first wounded Mormon...
- Kaysville woman jailed in Mexico over Sudafed...
- S.L. County attempting to address concerns...
- Elizabeth Smart kidnapper back in Utah to...
- State has \$370 million in unclaimed property...
- 10 things you may not have known about Nauvoo
- Alleged romance in S.L. County Recorder's...
- Parents sue teacher, school district after...

Get The Deseret News Everywhere

- Subscribe
- Mobile
- Facebook
- Twitter
- RSS
- Email

Most Commented

In Utah | Across Site

Utah | Across Site

Hrenko-Browning, said. "Many issues and concerns were identified during the process, and we believe they have been sufficiently addressed to advance approval of the (action) to allow the utility corridor.

The richest, most concentrated oil shale deposits are found in the Green River Formation in western Colorado, southeastern Utah and southern Wyoming.

Geologists suspect America's oil shale deposits could produce 6 trillion barrels of oil equivalent, but the majority of the shale is in formations that are hard to access and difficult to extract in an economically viable way.

Enefit American Oil's parent company in Estonia is the world's largest producer of oil and electricity from oil shale and supplies 90 percent of the country's power. Company officials are proceeding with the environmental review stage of their project, refining cost projections and the actual production process and design.

In the utility corridor needed for the Utah project, the BLM is proposing to approve a 19-mile water supply line, 9 miles of a natural gas pipeline, 30 miles of overhead power lines and making upgrades to a road.

Three open houses are planned to provide more information to the public: Tuesday, May 3, Vernal; Wednesday, May 4, in Rangely, Colo.; and Thursday, May 5, in Salt Lake City.

Environmental groups are voicing their opposition to the BLM's proposed action and say it represents a step backward in the effort to combat climate change.

"The Interior Department is working against President Obama's climate goals here," said Taylor McKinnon with the Center for Biological Diversity. "Enabling the development of one of the world's dirtiest fossil fuels is the opposite of climate leadership. The administration should abandon this project now."

Added Rob Dubuc, senior staff attorney at Western Resource Advocates: "We don't need to take this environmental disaster that comes with developing the dirtiest fuel on the planet — oil shale. Renewable energy innovations and improvements in energy efficiency make this fuel unnecessary to develop. BLM should not advance this project."

The BLM said it will accept emailed public comments about the draft environmental review through June 7 at UT_Vernal_Comments@blm.gov.

Email: amyjoi@deseretnews.com

Twitter: amyjoi16

- [Alleged romance in S.L. County...](#) 25
- [Kaysville woman jailed in Mexico over...](#) 22
- ['Huge, huge numbers' of voter...](#) 19
- [Parents sue teacher, school district...](#) 15
- [Ex-A.G. John Swallow now wants...](#) 15
- [S.L. County attempting to address...](#) 12
- ["Saturday's Warrior"—setting...](#) 10
- [Ex-beauty queen asks high court to...](#) 10



Advertise with us

Report this ad

Recommended Stories



Kenecott mine

Kenecott Utah Copper has eyes all over its massive Bingham Canyon Mine



SPONSORED

Poison control: What to know

A drawer forbidden to Dylan had been left open by an older brother, and Dylan couldn't resist.



Rape kits

A new extensive study of rape kits in Utah found that only 22.8 percent were submitted

Comments

[Leave a comment »](#)

DeseretNews.com encourages a civil dialogue among its readers. We welcome your thoughtful comments.

— [About comments](#)

About the Author



Amy Joi O'Donoghue

Amy Joi O'Donoghue is the environmental reporter the Deseret News, specializing in coverage of issues that affect land, air, water and energy development. She has worked here since 1998 and has been an assistant city [more ..](#)

Connect:



Insider Financial Tips

Forget Needing A Gun

The military recently released technology that is now available to the public. Get yours before they run out - limited stock in the US

[Read More>>](#)

[Advertise with us](#)

[Report this ad](#)

Home Utah U.S. & World Sports Moneywise Opinion Faith Family Obituarie  Sign up for morning or afternoon updates

Home »

- Blogs
- Topics
- Lists
- Movies
- Columnists

Utah »

- Politics
- Business
- Education
- Salt Lake County
- Utah County
- Davis County
- Police/Courts
- Legislature
- Weather
- Immigration
- Utah Wire

Sports »

- Utah Jazz
- Sports Picks
- BYU Cougars
- Utah Utes
- Utah State Aggies
- Real Salt Lake
- Salt Lake Bees
- High school sports
- Rock
- Harmon
- Scores and Stats
- On TV
- NFL
- MLB
- Weber State Wildcats
- Grizzlies
- Utah Valley Wolverines
- Southern Utah University
- Sports Wire

Opinion »

- Editorials
 - Op-Eds
 - Letters
 - Political Cartoons
- Faith »
- Featured Faiths
 - Mormon Times
 - LDS Church News
 - Mission Reunions
 - Faith Wire

Family »

- Marriage & Parenting
- Family Media
- Movie Guide
- Calendar
- TV Listings
- Family Life Wire

Special Sections »

- Education Week
- LDS General Conference
- Mormons in America
- Olympics
- Outdoor Retailer
- Rugby
- Sports Picks
- Sundance Film Festival
- Utah Blaze
- Utah Grizzlies

Download our Mobile Apps



Subscription About us Contact us Feedback Jobs RSS E-Edition Register for E-Edition Terms & Privacy Legal notices Advertise with us

Advertise with us

Report this ad