

*US Bureau of Indian Affairs
Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office*

OSAGE COUNTY OIL AND GAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Public Scoping Meeting

April 28, 2016



Welcome!

- The United States Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has reinitiated public scoping for the Osage EIS. After the public comment period for the draft EIS that was released in November 2015, the BIA determined that the draft EIS should be revised in order to address comments received and take into consideration additional information.
- This is your opportunity to tell the BIA your thoughts on how oil and gas leasing should be conducted in Osage County, to help identify issues and concerns to be addressed in the EIS, to provide input in developing alternatives, and to provide information regarding the level of oil and gas development in Osage County and possible mitigation measures.
- Format
 - Introductory Presentation
 - Public oral comments (2 minutes each)
 - Written comments also accepted until **May 8, 2016**.



April 28, 2016

BIA Mission

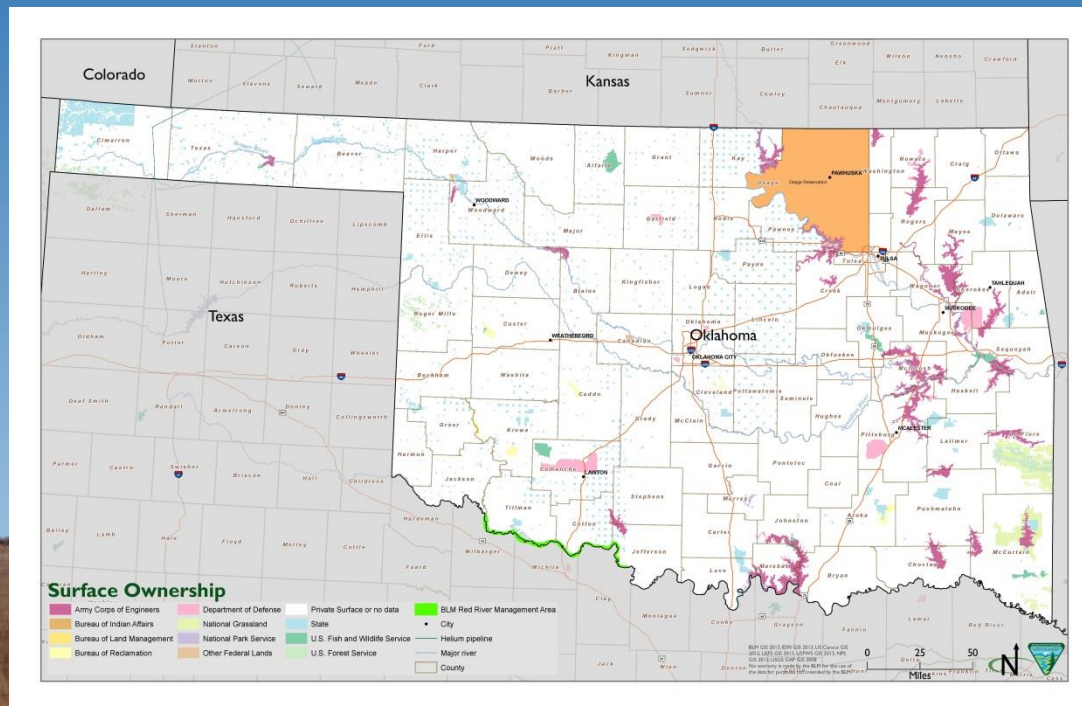
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs' mission is to enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives



April 28, 2016

Project Background

- The Osage Tribe retained all mineral rights in Osage County when the surface was allotted in 1906. The Osage Minerals Council negotiates and executes leases for oil and gas development.



April 28, 2016



Project Background *(continued)*

- The Superintendent of the BIA Osage Agency has been delegated the responsibility for managing oil and gas operations on the Osage mineral estate for the benefit of the Osage.
- This includes approving oil and gas mining leases, approving drilling, workover, and plugging operations, and monitoring lease operations to ensure lessees do not cause pollution.
- A draft EIS was prepared and released in November 2015.
- The BIA will be preparing a new draft EIS with new alternatives.
- The Osage EIS will be a programmatic-level evaluation of environmental impacts. It is not necessarily the final NEPA review for all future actions in the planning area.



April 28, 2016

Purpose of and Need for Action

The Osage mineral estate is held in trust, and the BIA approves oil and gas leases, applications for permits to drill, and other site-specific permit applications in Osage County under the authority of the 1906 act, as amended, and 25 CFR Part 226.

The BIA, under delegation from the Secretary of the Interior, administers the development of oil and gas resources in Osage County for the benefit of the Osage. Federal actions, including approval of leases and issuance of permits, are needed for the BIA to fulfill a portion of its trust responsibility to the Osage and to promote the development of the mineral estate.

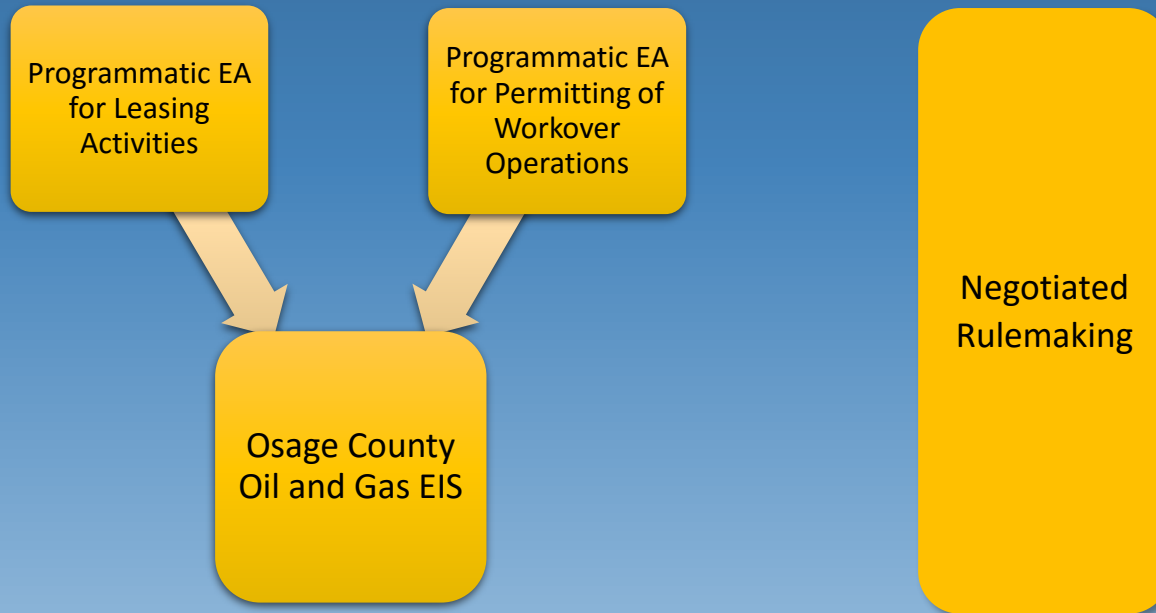
The purpose of the BIA's action is to promote oil and gas production in a manner that is efficient, that prevents pollution, and that is consistent with the mandates of federal law, in coordination with the Osage Minerals Council. Through this action, the BIA also intends to help streamline the permitting process and provide certainty to developers about permit conditions and restrictions.



April 28, 2016



How Does This EIS Fit In With Other Projects in Osage County?



April 28, 2016

What is Scoping?

- The early and open process for identifying actions, impacts, and issues that will be addressed in a NEPA document.
- Engages public, federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and other stakeholder groups in the collaborative planning process.
- Helps the BIA identify planning issues through input received from you.
- Can help the BIA identify related plans, studies, and other information that can be used in the EIS.



April 28, 2016

Who is helping the BIA with EIS preparation?

- Public/Stakeholder Groups
 - Participate in scoping
 - Review draft and final documents
- Cooperating Agencies & Entities
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - Osage Nation
 - May include others
- Contractor
 - Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc. (EMPSi)



April 28, 2016

Cooperating Agencies/Entities

Federal, state, or local agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction by law or special expertise

Current Agencies/Entities Accepting the BIA's Invitation:

- Osage Nation
- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6

The BIA is reaching out to USGS, Ok Geological Survey and Osage Minerals Council concerning Cooperating Agency status.



April 28, 2016

Issues to be Addressed in the EIS

- Oil and Gas Resource Development
- Water Resources
- Visual Resources
- Noise
- Public Health and Safety
- Soils and Geology
- Socioeconomics
- Fish and Wildlife
- Special Status Species
- Livestock
- Vegetation
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources



April 28, 2016

Status of the Biological Assessment

- The BIA is revising a biological assessment document to be based on the existing Osage Agency oil and gas program, including best management practices (BMPs) currently used.
- The BIA may prepare another biological assessment according to whatever preferred alternative is selected in the Osage EIS.



April 28, 2016

EIS Process (Tentative Schedule)



April 28, 2016
All dates are tentative.



Next Steps

- The BIA will compile comments from the public comment period (ends May 8, 2016).
- The BIA will prepare a public scoping summary report that summarizes comments received (May-June, 2016).
- The BIA will work with cooperating agencies to develop draft alternatives (June-August, 2016).
- Draft EIS published March 2017
- Final EIS published September 2017
- Record of Decision October 2017



April 28, 2016
All dates are tentative.

Tell Us What You Think

We welcome your feedback!

Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the Draft EIS. Comments may be submitted through one of the following methods:

- Email osagecountyoilandgaseis@bia.gov
- Mail to
Jeannine Hale, BIA Eastern Oklahoma Region
P.O. Box 8002
Muskogee, OK 74402–8002

Comment orally tonight or submit written comments by
May 8, 2016



April 28, 2016
All dates are tentative.

Contact Us With Questions

Jeannine Hale

Director, Division of Environmental and Cultural
Resources

BIA Eastern Oklahoma Region

P.O. Box 8002

Muskogee, OK 74402–8002

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April 28, 2016