

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADDITIONAL STUDIES UNDER WAY

FOR PROJECT WAGON WHEEL

EL PASO, May 18 --El Paso Natural Gas Company today announced details of activities currently taking place in the Green River Basin area as a part of the Project Wagon Wheel study.

--A second water well has been drilled to a depth of about 5,200 feet at the project study site, and is being tested to provide additional information about water-bearing rock formations. The project site is located on Highway 1801, about 20 air miles south of Pinedale and an equal distance east of Big Piney.

--A drilling rig has been moved over the exploratory hole at the study site to prepare the hole for production tests.

--Various surveys will be conducted in the next several weeks, relating to cultural, environmental and hydrological studies for the project. Cooperation and assistance of area residents will be requested in some of these activities. The surveys will update information collected earlier in the course of the Wagon Wheel study.

Contractor for the water well was Roden Drilling Co., of Casper, Wyoming. Contractor for work on the exploratory hole is Noble Drilling Co., of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The first water well at the Wagon Wheel site was drilled in 1969, to provide water during drilling of the exploratory hole. This water well is 2,500 feet deep. Drilling of the second water well began April 22. The second well is situated about 600 feet southwest of the first water well.

Production tests of the exploratory hole will provide additional information about the gas-bearing rock formations.

The hydrological studies will involve documentation of all water wells within 10 miles of the Wagon Wheel site, and of selected wells to a distance of 20 miles from the site. A contractor for this part of the study has not been selected, but is expected to be a Wyoming organization respected for its competence in this field.

The environmental program includes taking of plant, water, air, soil, animal, fish and other samples for laboratory analysis, beginning soon and continuing for an indefinite time. Eberline Instruments Corporation of Santa Fe, New Mexico, is the contractor for this portion of the study. Wind and humidity recording instruments will be installed to support this program.

The cultural survey will center on human activity and man-made structures in the area, and on animal, plant, bird and fish life. Dames and Moore, of Los Angeles, California, is the contractor for structural analysis.

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