

Project Handout

Zepernick Wildlife Area Leasing Project
January 2025



Department of
Natural Resources

Project Description:

The Oil and Gas Land Management Commission has entered into a non-development lease with Encino Energy Partners for the Zepernick Wildlife Area (WLA). The proposed project involves horizontal oil and gas drilling, with all well pads, infrastructure, and water withdrawals located outside the WLA to avoid surface disturbance. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being conducted to meet federal requirements and evaluate potential impacts.

What is an Environmental Assessment (EA)?

An Environmental Assessment evaluates the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project. The EA suggests alternatives or mitigations to reduce these impacts, which are used by decision makers to determine the most acceptable path of action.

What will the EA analyze?

The EA will explore:

- **Purpose and Need:** Why the project is being proposed.
- **Proposed Action and Alternatives:** Different ways the project could proceed, including the option to take no action.
- **Affected Environment and Environmental Impacts:** How the project might affect natural and human environments.

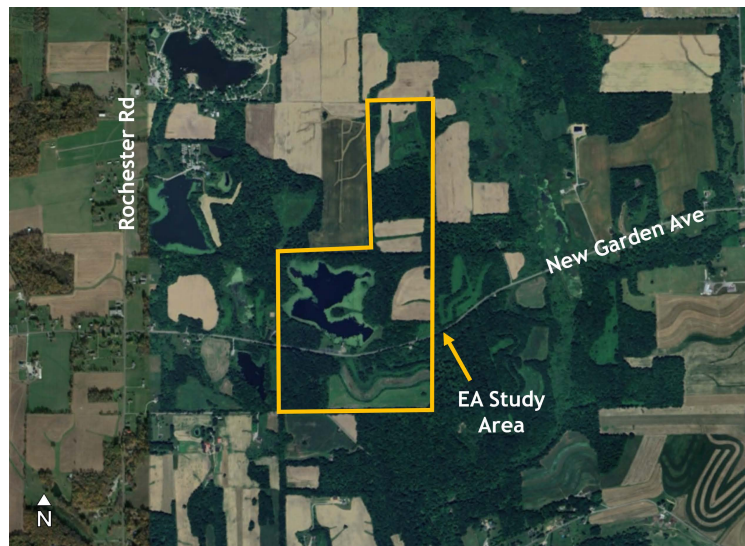
For a full list of the topics being studied, please refer to the back of this page.

Why are we seeking feedback now?

At this stage, we are asking for your input on what topics and issues should be analyzed in the EA. Your comments will help us identify any additional environmental, social, or economic factors that should be considered.

Once the draft EA is complete, it will be released for public review.

EA Study Area Location Map



How can I submit feedback?

We encourage you to submit your thoughts on what topics should be included in the EA. This initial public scoping period will remain open until **February 27, 2025**.

Submit by any of the following methods:

Email: stacy.xenakis@dnr.ohio.gov

Call: 614-265-6321

Mail: Division of Wildlife,
Attn: Stacy Xenakis
2045 Morse Road, Building G
Columbus, OH 43229

Before submitting your comments, please note:

- All comments, including any personal information, may be made publicly available at any time.
- While you can request that we withhold your personal information, we cannot guarantee it will be kept confidential.

**Please submit your comments
by February 27, 2025**

Are We Missing Anything? Let Us Know!

We want to ensure the Environmental Assessment (EA) considers all important factors. Below is a list of topics that will be analyzed in the EA. If you think we've overlooked something or have insights on the topics below, please share your comments or questions.

Resources Considered for Analysis in EA

- » **Land Use**
- » **Geology, Minerals, and Soils**
- » **Air Quality**
- » **Climate Impacts**
 - Monetized Impacts from Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- » **Water Resources**
 - Groundwater
 - Surface Water (streams, wetlands)
 - Drinking Water Resources
 - Floodplains
- » **Vegetation and Habitats**
 - Terrestrial Habitats (Special Status Plant Species)
 - Aquatic Habitats (Special Status Animal Species)
- » **Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation**
 - Cultural Resources Investigations
 - Native American Tribal Consultation
- » **Hazardous Materials**
- » **Transportation and Traffic**
- » **Recreation**
- » **Socioeconomic Resources**
 - Population and Demographics
 - Public Safety and Services
 - Environmental Justice
- » **Visual Resources**
- » **Noise**
 - Noise Impacts
 - Construction Noise
- » **Cumulative Impacts**
 - Scope of Analysis (Direct and Indirect Effects of Proposed Action, Effects of Other Actions)
 - Cumulative Effects

Anticipated Schedule

January 27 - February 27, 2025
EA Scoping Comment Period

Spring 2025
Incorporate into EA

April - May 2025
Draft EA Review

June 2025
EA Finalized

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To view information online:

[https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/
find-a-property/zepernick-wildlife-area](https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/zepernick-wildlife-area)



 **SCAN ME**



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