

## Drilling could hurt petroglyphs

By Patty Henetz  
The Salt Lake Tribune

SALT LAKE CITY — A Denver energy company’s plan to drill more than 800 natural-gas wells in eastern Utah’s relic-rich Nine Mile Canyon is in trouble with a top federal historical preservation agency.

In letters sent this week to Bureau of Land Management officials in Washington and Salt Lake City, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation questions whether the BLM adequately evaluated potential damage from the drilling project on ancient art and archaeological sites.

The agency’s involvement likely will slow the project and buttresses claims from tribal and conservation groups that Bill Barrett Corp.’s big-rig traffic along the canyon’s dirt roads will destroy some of the West’s most stunning ancient American Indian rock art.

“This is welcome news,” said Jerry Spangler, of the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance. “It’s pretty tough to ignore the advisory council when they get involved.”

The advisory council acts as a kind of appeals agency that can step in and require a federal agency to reconsider its historical-preservation actions.

Reid Nelson, a spokesman for the council, said the panel intervenes only rarely in antiquity evaluations by federal agencies. But BLM spokeswoman Megan Crandall said her agency considers the council part of the routine - even though the review promises to push back final approval of Bill Barrett’s project.

“That’s OK,” she said. “We’ll adjust. The important part is we’re working together. . . . Our goal is to preserve that rock art. Our goal is to take care of those cultural resources.”

In the spring, during the comment period on a draft environmental-impact statement, the Hopi Nation requested the advisory council’s participation after the BLM denied requests from the tribe and conservation groups for “consulting-party” status in the approval process. That would have given them more influence in the environmental study.

“When a tribe specifically requests the council be involved, it ups the ante,” said Ti Hayes, public-lands attorney for the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In an April 30 letter, Leigh J. Kuwanwisiuma, director of the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office, criticized the BLM’s draft EIS for excluding alternatives that would relieve the industrial impacts on cultural resources from dust, vibrations and diesel particulates.

Bill Barrett wants to fully develop the West Tavaputs Plateau with 800 new wells that could tap 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas - enough to supply the country for about 17 days at today’s consumption rate.

The company already has drilled about 100 wells on the plateau, which lies in Duchesne and Carbon counties. Big rigs serving the gas fields make hundreds of trips up and down the narrow dirt road through Nine Mile Canyon. Chemicals used to suppress the dust have stuck to rock-art panels.

The dust degrades air quality, which the Environmental Protection Agency wants the BLM to study further, a request that also could delay the project’s final approval.

Nelson said the advisory council’s involvement means some kind of negotiations must commence to resolve concerns about adverse effects on historical treasures. Or the BLM could refuse any suggestions.

Even then, Nelson said, the agency has to listen to the advisory council as the expert in how the National Historic Preservation Act is supposed to work.

Duane Zavadil, vice president of government and regulatory affairs for Bill Barrett, said he didn’t expect the review to take long. “It sounds like a relatively simple consultation that could be initiated and performed relatively quickly.”

## A veritable ‘who’s that?’ of U.S. history

By Michael E. Ruane  
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — When the first crowds surge through the doors of the lavish new Capitol Visitor Center this fall, they will be steeped in the saga of American Democracy and greeted with a statue of that pillar of the nation . . . Ephraim McDowell, the pioneering hernia surgeon.

Elsewhere in the glittering tribute to good government, pilgrims will find a bronze of the noted agriculturalist Julius Sterling Morton . . . the founder of Arbor Day!

And what temple to the political life of the United States would be complete without a statue of . . . Philo T. Farnsworth, the inventor of television?

That’s not all. When the visitor center opens Dec. 2 on the east side of the Capitol, tourists will also encounter statues of such figures as Ernest Gruening, Alaska’s first U.S. senator; Joseph Ward, founder of now-defunct Yankton College; John M. Clayton, co-negotiator of the oft-forgotten Clayton-Bulwer Treaty of 1850. There will be a Hawaiian king, a Montana pacifist and a Colorado astronaut.

In vain will visitors look for statues of the titans in U.S. history in the \$621 million underground complex, now getting its finishing touches. Instead, they will see the 23 most recent acquisitions of the National Statuary Hall Collection, a relatively contemporary array of individuals, albeit a bit obscure.

“These are not people you would normally expect if you were looking at it from the perspective of national history,” said Maryland historian Teresa B. Lachin, who has researched the collection. “A lot of these people, we’ve never heard of them.”

Congress, in conjunction with the Architect of the Capitol, chose the most recent, and, for the most part, contemporary, additions to the 100-statue collection, officials said.

The statues had been spread throughout the Capitol building, some in out-of-the-way corners and corridors off-limits to most tourists. Now they are being placed in and around the center’s majestic central gathering space, Emancipation Hall, which commemorates the slave labor that helped build the Capitol.

That raised the uncomfortable dilemma about what to do with the likenesses of bewhiskered Wade Hampton III of South Carolina -- whose aristocratic family once owned thousands of slaves -- and fellow Confederate General E. Kirby Smith of Florida.

Officials decided that they would not place the statues of Hampton, a top cavalry commander, or Smith, whose statue depicts him in a Confederate officer’s uniform, in Emancipation Hall. Instead, they will be put elsewhere in the visitors center.

The decision was applauded by Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr. (D-Ill.), who pushed for the hall’s name.

“Emancipation Hall . . .

stands really as a memorial to our nation’s struggle from slavery to freedom, from oppression to equality,” he said. “I think it is . . . inappropriate for a statue of a Confederate leader or slave owner to be placed inside Emancipation Hall.”

The statues make up a unique, if unheralded, group: five Native Americans; one Catholic priest, Eusebio F. Kino; a Catholic nun, Mother Joseph; a Supreme Court justice, Edward Douglass White Jr.; an early female college professor, Maria L. Sanford, known as the “best loved woman in Minnesota.” A 24th statue, that of Helen Keller, the champion of the disabled, will be added later.

Michael Culver, director of congressional and external relations for the Architect of the Capitol, said officials believe the chosen statues are ones “that would be most relevant to people who would be visiting.”

The visitor center -- a three-level complex with fountains, spiral staircases, skylights and theaters -- is expected to draw as many as 3 million people its first year. That’s double the 1.5 million who visited the Capitol last year, a spokeswoman for the visitor center said. Diane K. Skvarla, Senate curator, said one goal of the move was to make the sculptures more accessible to the public.

The statues in the collection make up one of the oldest groups of public sculpture in the country, according to historian Lachin. She said they reflect the sensibilities of many eras in U.S. history.

The collection has been criticized in the past for lacking in its representation of women and minorities.

There is only one sculpture of a black person in the Capitol complex, the bust of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in the main rotunda, which is not part of the collection, according to the architect’s office.

But the eclectic group being moved into the new limelight is diverse.

It includes dramatic bronzes of Nevada’s Sarah Winnemucca, a 19th-century Paiute educator, translator and spokeswoman for Native Americans, and Chief Washakie, a renowned Shoshone warrior who was another powerful advocate for Native Americans.

Other striking statues are those of the famed Hawaiian king Kamehameha I, wearing a gilded cape and helmet, and New Mexico’s seven-foot-tall pink marble image of Po’pay, a Pueblo Indian leader who directed an uprising against the Spanish in 1680. Both have been moved. To address Hawaiian concerns, the six-ton statue of Kamehameha I has been placed beneath a skylight, so no one will be walking above his head.

More conventional are the statues of Utah’s Farnsworth, the homespun 20th-century inventor and television pioneer, depicted with his sleeves rolled up, and Idaho’s Sen. William Edgar Borah, a strident isolationist, shown with a clenched fist and wearing a double-breasted coat.

“Part of what you’ve got

there is American history,” said Skvarla, the Senate curator. “Some of it’s not pretty. But it’s part of American history.”

The statutory collection was authorized by Congress in 1864 as a way to promote reconciliation at the close of the Civil War. Each state was invited to send statues of two important people for display in the Capitol.

Virginia sent sculptures of George Washington and Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Maryland has given statues of Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Colonial figure John Hanson. None are to be moved to the visitor center. The District commissioned two statues, of abolitionist Frederick Douglass and architect Pierre L’Enfant, but, in a sore spot for the District, legislation is required for them to join the collection.

The statues were first arrayed in what is now the Capitol’s pink-and-gold-domed Statuary Hall, the old chamber of the House of Representatives. Rhode Island contributed the first, that of Revolutionary War Gen. Nathanael Greene, in 1870.

The hall eventually was crammed three-deep with figures -- 65 by 1933 -- and was called a “chamber of horrors.” The collection was redistributed around the Capitol that year and again in 1976. Many of the more famous stayed in Statuary Hall, but others wound up crowded into the so-called Hall of Columns or elsewhere in the building.

## Cree courts get \$800,000 for programs

Great Falls Tribune

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — The Chippewa Cree Tribe’s court system has received three grants to help address substance abuse and tribal justice problems on the Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation.

The tribal court received \$800,000 over three years to expand services for the tribe’s Wellness Drug Court. The court currently serves 40 people a year, but the funding could help them reach 80, for a total of 240 over the three years, the tribe reported. The funding is from the SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

The court also received \$350,000 to expand the drug court to reach out to adults. The money will help reduce recidivism and substance abuse among adult nonviolent offenders and increase successful rehabilitation. The funding is from the Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Finally, the court received \$306,408 to reduce recidivism among juveniles. The Rocky Boy’s Children’s Court Enhancement Project will reach more than 240 juveniles over three years because of the funding.

## Drug lesson



Suzanne DeChillo/New York Times

Eugenia Phair stands on the shore of the Lummi Indian Reservation near Bellingham, Wash., Dec. 28, 2005. Phair says the 20 months she spent in prison for selling drugs taught her a lesson about material goods and happiness.

## Sheriff Big Hair recall vote set for Election Day

By Clair Johnson  
The Billings Gazette

BILLINGS, Mont. — A special election on whether to recall Big Horn County Sheriff Lawrence “Pete” Big Hair will be held the same day as the general election.

Big Horn County Clerk and Recorder Cyndy Maxwell said Tuesday that voters in the Nov. 4 general election will get a separate paper ballot on whether to recall Big Hair. Those ballots will be hand-counted separately from the general-election ballot, she said. “I hope to have a separate counting board appointed.”

Last Friday, Maxwell certified that organizers of a recall effort had submitted enough signatures on a petition to hold an election.

Organizers turned in 1,157 signatures, which was two more than necessary. The minimum required was 15 percent of Big Horn County voters.

Bob Runge, a former Big Horn County deputy sheriff, organized the recall drive after hearing about problems with Big Hair. The petition calls the sheriff incompetent and alleges that he has allowed underqualified people to work as deputies and accuses him of breaching a code of ethics.

Asked about the recall election after a town hall meeting in Fort Smith on Tuesday morning, Big Hair said, “I don’t have a response. I’m going to have to talk to my attorney.”

Maxwell said she consulted with the county attorney

and secretary of state about how to proceed with the special election.

Big Hair, she said, has 10 days starting Tuesday to send her a statement of justification explaining why he should be retained as sheriff. The statement will be printed on the ballot.

Big Hair declined to say whether he was working on a response, but he said he had no plans to resign.

General-election ballots already have been printed ,and absentee ballots will start being mailed Monday, Maxwell said. The recall ballots won’t be printed until after Oct. 9 and also will be sent to those requesting to vote absentee.

“I think it will run smoothly,” Maxwell said. “I’ve got a great staff.

## Tribes to take advantage of state aid services

By Kristen Moulton  
The Salt Lake Tribune

SALT LAKE CITY, — Though it might have been a bit of hyperbole when Irene Cuch, a member of the Ute Tribal Council, called a new agreement signed by the governor and leaders of Utah’s tribes “historic” on Wednesday, her adjective might point to a truth. It’s not often that Utah’s seven Indian tribes all agree on anything.

Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. and the leaders of six of Utah’s tribes all signed a “consultation agreement” that sets up a way for the tribes, the Indian Walk-in Center in Salt Lake City and the Utah Department of Human Services to work on issues of mutual concern. The Skull Valley Band of the Goshutes’ chairman was not present, but is expected to sign it later.

The signing occurred during a private meeting between

tribal leaders and the governor at the Native American Summit here Wednesday. Now in its third year, the summit continues Thursday.

Human Services provides services to the elderly, children, and to people with mental health and substance abuse problems, so its concerns often parallel those of Indian tribes.

The agreement has been under development for more than a year, after the tribes sought the kind of strategy the federal government has used for 13 years to try to better address needs in Indian Country.

Ruth Hughes, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services executive from Chicago, was the keynote speaker for the summit Wednesday, and she detailed ways that such consultative agreements have helped tribes avail themselves of Medicaid and medical insurance for children.