

Comments wanted on Glen Canyon drilling

Monday, June 13, 2005

By Sally Spaulding

The Daily Sentinel

Several public lands agencies are requesting public input on a company's request to drill an exploratory oil and gas well inside the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

Viking Oil Exploration Inc. was granted mineral rights to explore the area on nearly 10,000 acres of federal land in southern Utah in 1969.

Some of that land is now part of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area or Capitol Reef National Park. Both the park and recreation area were created after the lease was issued, so the company has legal access to explore in the area.

The company wishes to access a two-acre well site using nine miles of rebuilt or new road in Glen Canyon and over existing roads in the Bureau of Land Management's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

The National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management must now determine the environmental impacts of this proposal and are requesting public input on the company's request.

Comments are due by July 11. Visit parkplanning.nps.gov for information.

Sally Spaulding can be reached via e-mail at sspaulding@gjds.com.