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***“3-D SEISMIC PERMIT ISSUES ON STATE AND FEDERAL  
LANDS IN NEW MEXICO”***

Oil and gas operators, through their seismic contractors, are required to obtain permits before conducting seismic operations on Federal or State lands in New Mexico. This permit process can be confusing but need not be. An understanding of how the Natural Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) controls the process of obtaining a signed Notice of Intent (NOI) is necessary to carrying out a successful shoot on Federal lands. Some knowledge of the issues surrounding Endangered and Threatened Species and other local concerns is also helpful. The State permit process is less demanding but still has its share of “gotchas”.