



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office

440 West 200 South, Suite 500

Salt Lake City, UT 84101

<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html>



IN REPLY REFER TO:
3120 / (UT-922000)

February 12, 2016

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, National Park Service – Capital Reef National Park

From: Deputy State Director, Division of Lands and Minerals

Subject: Protest Dismissed - November 2015 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

On August 17, 2015, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah State Office posted a Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale (NCLS) that identified 55 parcels of land in which the BLM proposed to offer for oil and gas leasing at a competitive lease auction scheduled for November 17, 2015 (November 2015 Lease Sale). That NCLS also provided notice of a 30-day protest period for the parcels that the BLM proposed to offer for oil and gas leasing during the November 2015 Lease Sale.

During the protest period for the NCLS, on September 16, 2015, BLM Utah received a letter (copy attached) whereby the National Park Service protested certain aspects of the proposal in the NCLS to offer parcels UTU91317 (UT1115 – 086), UTU91318 (UT1115 – 087), UTU91319 (UT1115 – 089), UTU91320 (UT1115 – 090) UTU91321 (UT1115 – 0091), UTU91322 (UT1115 – 092), UTU91323 (UT1115 – 093), UTU91324 (UT1115 – 094) UTU91325 (UT1115 – 095), UTU91326 (UT1115 – 096), UTU91327 (UT1115 – 097), UTU91328 (UT1115 – 098) UTU91329 (UT1115 – 100) and UTU9130 (UT1115 – 101), (collectively “Protested Parcels”) for oil and gas leasing at the November 2015 Lease Sale.

On November 13, 2015, BLM-Utah posted an errata sheet for the NCLS that, among other things, deferred all of the above identified Protested Parcels from being offered for oil and gas leasing until additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis is conducted. As none of the Protested Parcels will be offered for lease until that occurs, the protest of the November 2015 Lease Sale filed by the National Park Service is hereby dismissed in its entirety.

Please direct any questions regarding this decision to Sheri Wysong, BLM-Utah Fluid Minerals Leasing Coordinator, at (801) 539-4067.

Attachment:

1. National Park Service Protest Letter

cc: James Karkut, Office of the Solicitor, Intermountain Region,
125 South State Street, Suite 6201, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

bcc: Lease Sale Books November 2015

Reading File: UT920

SWysong Date: 02/12/2016