



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:
3100 / (UT-922000)

February 12, 2016

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DECISION

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance : Protests of the Inclusion of Certain
425 East 100 South : Lease Parcels on the November 17, 2015
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 : Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Protest Dismissed

On August 14, 2015, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah State Office posted a Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale (NCLS) that identified parcel of land in which the BLM proposed to offer for oil and gas leasing at a competitive lease auction scheduled for November 17, 2015 (February 2015 Lease Sale). That NCLS also provided notice of a 30-day public protest period for the parcels that BLM proposed to offer for oil and gas leasing during the November 2015 Lease Sale.

During the public protest period for the NCLS, on September 16, 2015, the BLM-Utah received a letter whereby the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) protested the BLM's proposal in the NCLS to offer for lease at the November, 2015 Lease Sale the following parcels ("Protested Parcels"): UTU-91312 (UT1115 – 065), UTU-91313 – (UT1115 - 066), UTU-91316 – (UT1115 – 071) 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), UTU9130 (UT1115 – 101) and UTU91341 (UT1115 – 210).

On November 13, 2015, the BLM-Utah posted an errata sheet for the NCLS that, among other things, deferred the 15 above identified Protested Parcels from being offered in their entirety, and a portion of one of Protested Parcels for oil and gas leasing at the November 2015 Lease Sale. That same day the BLM received from SUWA a letter rescinding its protest. Therefore the BLM is dismissing the protest as moot.

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) in accordance with the regulations contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4 and as described on the enclosed BLM Form 1842-1. In order for an appeal of this decision to be considered, a written notice of appeal must be filed with this office (as described on the enclosed Form 1842-1) within 30-days from receipt of this decision.

If you wish to file a petition for a stay pursuant to 43 CFR § 4.21 as to the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by IBLA, a petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification in accordance with the standards listed in 43 CFR § 4.21(b), which include:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
- (3) The likelihood of irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal, petition for a stay, and a statement of reasons must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Office of the Regional Solicitor, Intermountain Region, U.S. Department of the Interior at Federal Building Room 6201, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138, at the same time that the original documents are filed in this office.

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

/s/ Kent Hoffman
Deputy State Director,
Division of Lands and Minerals

Enclosure:

1. Form 1842-1

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

bcc: Lease Sale Book Feb2016
Reading File: UT-920

SWysong Date: 02/12/2016