



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Miles City Field Office
111 Garryowen Road
Miles City, Montana 59301-7000
www.blm.gov/mt

In Reply Refer To:
3160 (MTC023)

March 18, 2016

Re: Oil and Gas Lease Parcel Preliminary Review
October 18, 2016 Lease Sale

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received Expressions of Interest (nominations) to sell Federal oil and gas leases on 132 parcels of Federal minerals in a future lease sale. The parcels are located within the Miles City Field Office (MCFO) area. It is the State Director's discretion to not carry forward 126 parcels nominated within sage grouse habitat pending implementation guidance on the 2015 Approved Miles City Field Office Resource Management Plan. Therefore, the MCFO will conduct a 15-day scoping period for the remaining six nominated parcels. The preliminary parcel list with recommended stipulations for the remaining six parcels is posted on the BLM e-Planning website, listed below, for a 15-day scoping period for your review starting on March 22, 2016.

The BLM makes mineral resources available for use to meet national, regional, and local needs. Under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987, the BLM conducts oil and gas lease sales quarterly in each state whenever eligible lands are available for leasing. Prior to offering nominated parcels for lease at a sale, if analysis is warranted, the BLM will complete an environmental assessment (EA) to disclose the potential impacts from issuing Federal oil and gas leases and identify stipulations that would be included with each lease.

We have posted a preliminary parcel list with recommended stipulations on the BLM e-Planning website for your review. Please refer to the BLM e-Planning website for updated information and associated documents pertaining to this sale at <http://1.usa.gov/1QyUex8>. Select *NEPA* as the *Type of Project* and complete a *Text Search* for DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0071-EA.

If you have any comments or issues that we should consider addressing in our analysis, please provide comments using one of the following methods:

Email: BLM_MT_Miles_CityFO_Lease_EA@blm.gov

Mail: Miles City Field Office
Attention: Irma Nansel
111 Garryowen Road
Miles City, MT 59301-7000

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

To be most useful, we should receive your comments before April 6, 2016. All submissions from organizations, from businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses, will be available for public review.

If analysis is warranted, an EA will be available for a 30-day review beginning on May 16, 2016 at the link listed above. A letter requesting your assistance in providing comments to our EA will be sent to you at that time.

Please contact Irma Nansel, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (406) 233-3653 with questions. We appreciate your attention to this review and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wendy Warren", is centered on the page.

Wendy M. Warren
Acting Field Manager