



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Utah State Office
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<http://www.blm.gov>



July 6, 2007

**Notice of Competitive Lease Sale
Oil and Gas**

We are pleased to announce that we will offer for competitive sale certain Federal lands in the State of Utah for oil and gas leasing. This notice describes-

- The time and place of the sale;
- How to participate in the bidding process;
- The sale process;
- The conditions of the sale;
- How to file a noncompetitive offer after the sale;
- How to file a presale noncompetitive offer.
- How to file a protest.

Attached to this notice is a list of the lands we are offering by serial number, parcel number and description. We have included any special conditions or restriction that will be made a part of the lease below each parcel. For your convenience, we are including copies of the bid form and the lease form.

When and where will the sale take place?

When: The competitive oral sale will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 21, 2007, the room will open at 7:45 a.m. so you can register and get your bidding number.

We will hold the sale at the Bureau of Land Management State Office, 3 Gateway Building, 440 West 200 South, Fifth Floor, Monument Conference Room 532, Salt Lake City, Utah. There are parking facilities at the building.

Access: The sale room is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the sale, such as sign language interpreter or materials in an alternate format, contact Teresa Thompson (801) 539-4047, by August 1, 2007.

How do I participate in the bidding process?

To participate in the bidding process, you must register for and get a bidding number. We will begin registering bidders at 7:45 a.m. on the day of the sale. You must display your bid number to the auctioneer when you submit a bid. What is the sale process?

Starting at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the sale-

- The auctioneer will offer the parcels in the order they are shown in the attached list;
- All bids are on a per-acre basis for the entire acreage in the parcel;
- The winning bid is the highest oral bid equal to or exceeding the minimum acceptable bid; and
- The decision of the auctioneer is final.

The minimum bid BLM can accept is \$2 per acre. If a parcel contains fractional acreage, round it up to the next whole acre. For example, a parcel of 100.51 acres requires a minimum bid of \$2 (\$2 x 101 acres). After we have offered all the parcels, you may ask the auctioneer to re-offer any unsold parcels.

What conditions apply to the lease sale?

- **Parcel withdrawal or sale cancellation:** We reserve the right to withdraw any or all parcels before the sale begins. If we withdraw a parcel, we will post a notice in the Utah State Office Business Information Center (Public Room) before the day of the sale. We will announce withdrawn parcels before beginning the sale. If we cancel the sale, we will notify you as soon as possible.

- **Payment due:** You cannot withdraw a bid. Your bid is a legal binding commitment to sign the bid form, accept the lease, and pay the money due on the day of the sale. You may pay immediately after the sale, but you must pay at least the annual rental, administrative fee and the minimum bonus bid by 4:30 p.m. on the date of the sale at our Accounting Office on the 5th floor of the State Office. You must pay any balance due by the close of business on Sept. 5, 2007, which is the 10th working day following the sale. If you do not pay in full by this date, you lose the right to the lease and all money due on the day of the sale. If you forfeit a parcel, we may offer it at a later sale.

In accordance with 43 CFR 3120.5-2(b) for each parcel you win, the money due the day of the sale is the minimum bonus bid deposit of \$2 per acre or fraction thereof, the total amount of the first year's rental (\$1.50 per acre); and an administrative fee of \$130.

- **Forms of payment:** You can pay by personal check, certified check, money order, credit card (Discover, Visa, American Express or MasterCard only). Make checks payable to: **Department of the Interior-BLM**. We cannot accept cash. If a check you have sent to us in the past has been returned for insufficient funds, we may ask that you give us a guaranteed payment, such as a certified check. If you pay by credit card and the transaction is refused, we will try to notify you early enough so that you can make other payment arrangements. However, we cannot grant you any extension of time to pay the money that is due the day of the sale.

Limitations on Credit Cards and Debit Payments

Per IM No. BC-2005-008, Change 1, dated December 13, 2004, effective February 1, 2005 credit or debit cards can not be used for any amount in excess of \$99,999.99 for any purpose.

• **Bid form:** On the day of the sale, if you are a successful bidder you must give us a properly completed and signed competitive bid form (Form 3000-2, January 2007) with your payment. This form is a legally binding offer by the prospective lessee to accept a lease and all its terms and conditions. Once the form is signed, you cannot change it. We will not accept any bid form that has information crossed out or is otherwise altered.

We recommend you get a copy of the bid form and complete it prior to the sale. Your completed bid form certifies that:

(1) You and the prospective lessee are qualified to hold an oil and gas lease under our regulations at 43 CFR 3102.5-2; and

(2) Both of you have complied with 18 U.S.C. 1860, a law that prohibits unlawful combinations, intimidation of and collusion among bidders.

A copy of the bid form is included with this notice.

• **Lease Issuance:** After we receive the bid form and all the money due, we can issue the lease. Usually, a lease is effective the first day of the month following the month in which we sign it. If you want your lease to be effective the first day of the month in which we sign it, you must ask us in writing to do this. We have to receive your request before we sign the lease.

• **Lease terms:** A lease issued as a result of this sale will have a primary term of 10 years. It will continue beyond its primary term as long as oil or gas in paying quantities is produced on or for the benefit of the lease. Rental at \$1.50 per acre for the first 5 years (\$2 per acre after that) is due on or before the anniversary date each year until production begins. Once a lease is producing, you must pay a royalty of 12.5 percent on the production. You will find other lease terms on our standard lease form (Form 3100-11, July 2006).

• **Stipulations:** Some parcels have special requirements or restrictions, which are called stipulations. These are included with the parcel descriptions. Stipulations are part of the lease and supercede any inconsistent provisions of the lease form.

All Federal oil and gas lease rights are granted subject to applicable laws under Section 6 of the lease terms, and lessees must meet certain requirements under the Endangered Species Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et. Seq. In accordance with Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-174 each parcel included in this lease sale will be subject to the attached Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Stipulation.

In accordance with WO Instruction Memorandum No. 2005-003, *Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation, for Fluid Minerals Leasing*, each parcel in this lease sale will be subject to the attached Cultural Resource Protection Stipulation.

How do I file a noncompetitive offer after the sale?

Lands that do not receive a bid are available on a first-come, first-served basis for a two-year period, beginning the day after the sale. If you want to file a noncompetitive offer on an unsold parcel, you must give us-

- An Offer to Lease Form properly completed and signed. **(Note: You may copy the lease form, but you must copy the four pages of the lease document onto two pages. If you copy the form on 4 pages or use an obsolete lease form, we will reject your offer. Any copy you make should be legible.)** Describe the lands in your offer as specified in our regulations at 43 CFR 3110.5, and;
- Your payment for the total of the \$335 filing fee and the advanced first year's rental (\$1.50 per acre). Remember to round up any fractional acreage when you calculate the amount of rental.

Put the above items in a sealed envelope marked "Noncompetitive Offer" and place the envelope in the drop box in the Utah State Office Information Access Center (Public Room). We consider all offers filed the day of a sale and the first business day after it, for any of the unsold parcels, filed at the same time. If a parcel receives more than one offer, we will hold a drawing to pick the winner. In the list of parcels, we have used an asterisk to mark any that have pending presale offers. A presale offer has priority over any offer filed after the sale.

How do I file a noncompetitive presale offer?

Under our regulations at 43 CFR 3110.1(a), you may file a noncompetitive presale offer for lands that;

- Are available, and;
- Have not been under lease during the previous one-year period, or;
- Have not been included in a competitive lease sale within the previous two-year period.

If we do not receive a bid for the parcel that contains the lands in your offer, it has priority over any offer for that parcel filed after the sale. Your presale offer is your consent to the terms and conditions of the lease, including any additional stipulations. If you want to file a presale offer, follow the directions listed for filing a noncompetitive offer after the sale.

When is the next competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled?

We have tentatively scheduled our next competitive sale for November 13, 2007.

How can I find out the results of this sale?

We will post the sale results in the Utah State Office Information Access Center. You can buy (\$5) a printed copy of the results list the Utah State Office Information Access Center. The list will also be available at our public internet site:

http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/energy/oil_and_gas_lease.html

May I protest BLM's decision to offer the lands in this notice for lease?

Yes, under regulation 43 CFR 3120.1-3, you may protest the inclusion of a parcel listed in this sale notice. All protest must meet the following requirements:

- We must receive a protest no later than close of business on the 15th calendar day prior to the date of the sale. If our office is not open on the 15th calendar day prior to the date of the sale, a protest received on the next day our office is open to the public will be considered timely filed. The protest must also include any statement of reasons to support the protest. We will dismiss a late-filed protest or a protest filed without a statement of reasons.
- A protest must state the interest of the protesting party in the matter.
- You may file a protest either by mail in hardcopy form or by telefax and must be received in our office by 4:30 pm on August 6, 2007. You may not file a protest by electronic mail. A protest filed by fax must be sent to (801) 539-4237. A protest sent to a fax number other than the fax number identified or a protest filed by electronic mail will be dismissed.
- If the party signing the protest is doing so on behalf of an association, partnership or corporation, the signing party must reveal the relationship between them. For example, unless an environmental group authorizes an individual member of its group to act on their behalf, the individual cannot make a protest in the group's name.

If BLM receives a timely protest of a parcel advertised on this Sale Notice, how does it affect bidding on the parcel?

We will announce receipt of any protest at the beginning of the sale. We will also announce a decision to either withdraw the parcel or proceed with offering it at the sale.

If I am the high bidder at the sale for a protested parcel, when will BLM issue my lease?

We will make every effort to decide the protest within 60 days after the sale. We will issue no lease for a protested parcel until the State Director makes a decision on the protest. If the State Director denies the protest, we will issue your lease concurrently with that decision.

If I am the successful bidder of a protested parcel, may I withdraw my bid and receive a refund of my first year's rental and bonus bid?

If we uphold a protest and withdraw the parcel from leasing, we will refund your first year's rental, bonus bid and administrative fee. If the decision upholding the protest

results in additional stipulations, we will offer you an opportunity to accept or reject the lease with the additional stipulations prior to lease issuance. If you do not accept the additional stipulations, we will reject your bid and we will refund your first year's rental, bonus bid and administrative fee.

If BLM's decision to uphold the protest results in additional stipulations, may I appeal that decision?

Yes, you may. Note: an appeal from the State Director's decision must meet the requirements of Title 43 CFR 4.411 and Part 1840.

May I appeal BLM's decision to deny my protest?

Yes, you may. Note: an appeal from the State Director's decision must meet the requirements of Title 43 CFR 4.411 and Part 1840.

May I withdraw my bid if the protestor files an appeal?

No. If the protestor appeals our decision to deny the protest, you may not withdraw your bid. We will issue your lease concurrently with the decision to deny the protest. If resolution of the appeal results in lease cancellation, we will authorize a refund of the bonus bid, rentals and administrative fees:

- There is no evidence that the lessee(s) derived any benefit from possession of the lease during the time they held it, and;
- There is no indication of bad faith or other reasons not to refund the rental, bonus bid and administrative fee.

For more information, please contact Teresa Thompson at (801) 539-4047.

/s/ James Kohler

for Kent Hoffman
Deputy State Director
Division of Lands and Minerals

