



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Billings Field Office
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, Montana 59101
www.blm.gov/mt

In Reply Refer To:

March 25, 2014

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received Expressions of Interest (nominations) to sell Federal oil and gas leases on 13 parcels of Federal minerals in an October 21, 2014 lease sale. The parcels are located within Yellowstone and Stillwater counties in the Billings Field Office. The preliminary parcel list with recommended stipulations is posted on our website, listed below, for a 15-day scoping period for your review.

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, 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 our website for your review. Please refer to the Montana/Dakotas BLM website at: <http://blm.gov/qtld>

Current and updated information about our EAs, Lease Sale Notices, and corresponding information pertaining to this sale can be found at the link referenced above. Once there, search for the October 21, 2014 lease sale to review the preliminary parcel list with recommended stipulations.

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: MT_BillingsFO_Lease_EA@blm.gov

Mail: Bureau of Land Management
Billings Field Office
Attention: Craig Drake
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, MT 59101

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 09, 2014. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses, will be available for public review.

We plan to have the EA available for a 30-day review on May 19, 2014. Please refer to 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 Craig Drake, Assistant Field Manager, at (406) 896-5349 with questions. We appreciate your attention to this review and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

James M. Sparks
Field Manager
Billings Field Office