

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Miles City Field Office
111 Garryowen Road
Miles City, Montana 59301-7000**

**Decision Record and Leasing Recommendation
Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2015-0009-DNA**

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the proposed action as identified in the Miles City Field Office (MCFO) Oil and Gas Leasing Document of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2015-0009-DNA, in which 3 whole lease parcels containing 160 federal surveyed mineral acres would be offered for competitive and/or noncompetitive lease issuance at the May 6, 2015 competitive sale. Competitive leases will be issued for parcels sold at the sale, and noncompetitive leases may be issued for applications filed during the 2-year period following the sale.

Authorities:

The authority for this decision is contained in 43 CFR 3100.

Compliance and Monitoring:

Should the parcels be developed, monitoring may be required and would be addressed and analyzed under future NEPA documentation.

Terms, Conditions, and Stipulations:

For all parcels, standard terms and conditions, as well as the lease notices and stipulations identified by parcel in Attachment 1 of the DNA, would apply and be attached to the lease parcel(s).

Plan Conformance and Consistency:

The proposed action has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the following BLM plans and associated Record of Decision(s): Powder River Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, March 1985 as amended by Miles City District Oil and Gas FEIS/Amendment, February 1994 and Montana Statewide Oil and Gas FEIS/Amendment of the Powder River and Billings RMPs, April 2003 and Supplement to Montana Statewide Oil and Gas FEIS/Amendment of the Powder River and Billings RMPs, December 2008 Big Dry Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, April 1996.

Alternatives Considered:

The proposed action is essentially similar to, but not specifically a feature of, the selected alternative analyzed in each of the existing referenced EAs. This proposed action would offer all 3 whole parcels within Roosevelt and Powder River Counties covering 160 surveyed acres of federal mineral for competitive and/or noncompetitive lease issuance. The lease parcel number,

size, and detailed locations and associated stipulations are listed in Attachment 1 of the DNA. Standard terms and conditions, as well as stipulations identified in Attachment 1, would apply.

Public Comments:

This DNA was made available for a 30-day public comment period which ended on December 31, 2014. A total of 5 written submissions were received during the 30-day comment period, which resulted in 17 individually-coded substantive comments. After review and consideration of the comments, some modifications have been made to the DNA. Refer to Attachment 3 of the updated DNA for a summary of public participation and changes made to the document.

Rationale for the Decision:

The decision to approve the proposed action is based on the following: 1) consistency with resource management and land use plans; 2) national policy; 3) agency statutory requirements; 4) relevant resource issues; and 5) application of measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

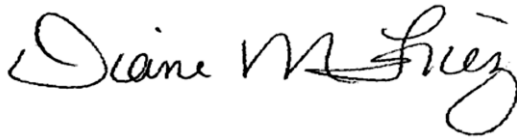
1. The decision is in conformance with the Powder River Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, March 1985 as amended by Miles City District Oil and Gas FEIS/Amendment, February 1994 and Montana Statewide Oil and Gas FEIS/Amendment of the Powder River and Billings RMPs, April 2003 and Supplement to Montana Statewide Oil and Gas FEIS/Amendment of the Powder River and Billings RMPs, December 2008 Big Dry Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, April 1996.
2. It is the policy of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as derived from various laws, including the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended [30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*] and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, to make mineral resources available for disposal and to encourage development of mineral resources to meet national, regional, and local needs.
3. The decision is consistent with all federal, state, and county authorizing actions required for implementation of the Preferred Alternative.
4. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3101.1-3) were added to each parcel as identified by the MCFO to address site specific resource concerns or new information not identified in the planning process.

Recommended by:

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Todd D. Yeager, Field Manager
Date 5/1/2015

Concurrence by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane M. Friez". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Diane M. Friez, District Manager
Date 5/1/2015

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donato J. Judice". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Donato J. Judice, Deputy State Director, Division of Energy, Minerals and Realty
Date 5/1/2015