



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

New Mexico State Office
301 Dinosaur Trail
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
www.blm.gov/nm



In Reply Refer To:
3100 (9210)

April 17, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7011 1570 0000 7532 9729

Mr. Steven Sugarman
Attorney-at-Law
347 County Road 55A
Cerrillos, NM 87010

DECISION PROTEST UPHELD APRIL 2012, OIL AND GAS SALE

On February 14, 2012, as agent for Michael and Patricia Gold, you filed a protest that requested that a portion of Parcel 201204-021 be removed from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale scheduled for April 18, 2012. Your protest was filed timely.

Parcel 201204-021 was identified as “released for sale” in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), #DOI-BLM-NM-FO10-2012-024-EA, prepared by the Farmington Field Office and posted to the BLM website on January 18, 2012. It consists of 321.52 acres, and described as T. 25 N., R. 3 W., sec. 2, Lots 1-4, S½N½. Your protest requests that Lots 2-4 be removed from the sale.

We note that, on the actual Sale Notice, posted to the web on January 18, 2012, the parcel number was changed to 201204-018. It retained the above legal description.

Your protest letter, as well as a previous letter that provided comments to the proposal to offer this parcel for competitive sale, raised several issues that you believe were not adequately addressed in the unsigned EA and FONSI. For this reason, we are deferring the entire parcel until the October, 17, 2012, competitive lease sale. This additional time will allow the Farmington Field Office the opportunity to fully evaluate issues you raised in your protest.

/s/ Jesse J. Juen

Jesse J. Juen
State Director

cc:

NM9210, Fluids Adjudication Team

NMF0100, Farmington Field Office Manager