

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Hassayampa Field Office
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85027**

**Decision Record and Leasing Recommendation
Hassayampa Field Office Oil and Gas Leasing EA
DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2012-010-EA**

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action as identified in the Hassayampa Field Office Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment (EA), DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2012-010-EA.

Authority:

The authority for this decision is contained in 43 CFR 3100.0-3(a)(1).

Compliance and Monitoring:

Should the leases 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 Table 2 of the EA, would apply and be attached to the parcels(s).

Plan Conformance and Consistency:

The proposed action and alternative has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the land use decisions described in the Aqua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala Records of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plans, as approved, in April 2010.

Alternatives Considered:

No Action. The No Action Alternative would exclude offering four (4) lease parcels covering 8,887 acres in the Hassayampa Field Office (HFO) from the February 2013 lease sale being held in Denver, Colorado. Surface Management would remain the same, and the interest in oil and gas development of these parcels, as defined by the proponent, would terminate.

Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would be to lease, through competitive lease sale, four parcels, containing 8,887 acres of federal mineral estate administered by the Hassayampa Field Office, for the

purpose of oil and gas exploration and development. The parcels are located in eastern Coconino County, approximately 35 miles northeast of Flagstaff, AZ.

Public Comments:

On September 10, 2012, this EA was made available for a 30-day public comment period. No written or email comment submissions were received.

On November 16, 2012, the Bureau of Land Management provided notice that four parcels of land (8,887 acres) would be offered in a competitive oil and gas lease sale on February 14, 2013; this lease sale notice initiated a 30-day protest period for the lease sale. No protests were received.

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. The proposed action has been chosen as the preferred alternative.

1. The decision is in conformance with the Aqua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala Records of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plans (2010).
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 Proposed Action.
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 Hassayampa Field Office to address site specific resource concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process.

Administrative Review and Appeal:

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the authorized officer. This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, the Notice of Appeal must be filed in the Arizona State Office, One Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona, 85004, within 30 days from this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (pursuant to regulations at 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart B §4.21) for a stay of the effectiveness of this Decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show

sufficient justification based on the following standards listed below. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall be evaluated based on the following standards:

- 1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
 - 2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
 - 3) The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted;
- And
- 4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the Notice of Appeal, Petition for Stay, and any statement of reasons, written arguments or briefs must also be submitted to each party named in this Decision and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413), in accordance with Form 1842-1, at the same time the original documents are filed in this office. A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party, as listed below.

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

In case of an appeal, the adverse parties to be served are:

Monte Vista Exploration Company, Inc. P.O. Box 345 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103-0345

Recommended by:

Rem Hawes
Field Manager
Hassayampa Field Office

Rem Hawes Date: *2/6/2013*

Approved by:

for Julie Decker
Deputy State Director, Division of Resources

Rebecca Huick Date: *2/13/2013*