

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
North Dakota Field Office
99 23rd Avenue W, Suite A
Dickinson, ND 58601**

**Decision Record and Leasing Recommendation
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2013-152-DNA**

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the findings in the DNA which offers one (1) parcel containing approximately 18.30 acres of federal minerals for lease at the at the October 22, 2013 competitive sale. Competitive leases will be issued for parcels sold at the sale, and non-competitive 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:

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

Terms, Conditions, and Stipulations:

For the parcel, standard terms and conditions, as well as the lease notices and stipulations identified in the DNA, would apply and be attached to the lease parcel.

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): North Dakota RMP (April 1988) and its associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the governing land use plan for the NDFO.

Alternatives Considered:

The range of alternatives analyzed in the NDFO July 2013 Oil & Gas Lease Sale Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2013-068-EA) is appropriate with respect to the new proposed action (DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2013-152-DNA), given current environmental concerns, interests and resource values.

The alternatives analyzed in DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2013-068-EA were as follows:

Alternative A - No Action Alternative would have excluded all 36 parcels within the NDFO from the lease sale. Surface management would have remained the same and ongoing oil and gas development would have continued on surrounding federal, private, and state leases.

Alternative B – Proposed Action offered all 36 parcels of federal minerals, covering approximately 4,454.46 acres for competitive and/or noncompetitive lease issuance, in

conformance with the land use planning decisions. The lease parcel number, size, and detailed locations and associated stipulations were listed in Appendix A of the EA. Standard terms and conditions, as well as stipulations identified in Appendix A of the EA apply.

The decision was made on July 11, 2013 to select Alternative B – Proposed Action.

Public Comments:

The EA was made available for a 30-day public comment period which ended on March 12, 2013. No substantive comments were received during or after the 30-day comment period from the public. The DNA was also made available for a 30-day public comment period. It was posted to the Montana BLM website on July 24, 2013, and no comments were received during or after the 30-day comment period from the public.

Rationale for the Decision:

The decision to approve the Alternative B - 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 North Dakota RMP (April 1988) and its associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the governing land use plan for the NDFO.
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 the parcel as identified by the NDFO to address site specific resource concerns or new information not identified in the planning process.

Recommended by:



Richard A. Rymerson, Field Manager

Date: October 18, 2013

Concurrence by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane M. Friez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Diane M. Friez, District Manager
Date: October 18, 2013

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Albano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

James A. Albano, Acting Deputy State Director, Division of Resources
Date October 21, 2013