

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
South Dakota Field Office
310 Roundup Street
Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717**

**Decision Record and Leasing Recommendation
Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-MT-C040-2014-0002-EA**

Decision:

It is my decision to implement Alternative C (the Preferred Alternative) as identified in the South Dakota Field Office (SDFO) Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment (EA), DOI-BLM-MT-C040-2014-0002-EA, in which 1 parcel containing 80.00 acres of Federal minerals would be offered for lease at the July 15, 2014 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. A total of 14 parcels would be deferred from leasing, and no parcels would be partially leased and partially deferred.

In conjunction, oil and gas lease SDM 98206 containing 720.00 acres, under Alternative C as identified by the SDFO Oil and Gas Leasing EA, DOI-BLM-MT-C040-2014-0002-EA would be reinstated.

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 Appendix A of the EA, would apply and be attached to the lease parcel(s).

Standard terms and conditions, as well as the lease notices and stipulations for lease SDM 98206 as identified in Appendix C of the EA, would apply and be attached to the reinstated lease.

Plan Conformance and Consistency:

The alternatives have been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the land use decisions described in the South Dakota Resource Management Plan (RMP) and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), approved in April 1986, and the Miles City District Oil and Gas RMP/EIS Amendment, approved on February 2, 1994.

The South Dakota draft land use plan contained in the 2013 Draft South Dakota RMP and EIS which is past the public comment periods was also used to analyze the reinstatement of lease SDM 98206.

Alternatives Considered:

Alternative A – No Action. The No Action Alternative would exclude all 15 lease parcels from the lease sale. Surface management would remain the same and ongoing oil and gas development would continue on surrounding Federal, private, and State leases.

The terminated lease SDM 98206 would not be reinstated.

Alternative B – Proposed Action. The proposed action would be to offer 15 parcels for competitive and/or noncompetitive lease issuance, in conformance with the land use planning decisions. The lease parcels are located within the SDFO area of administration, and are dispersed across the following counties: Harding and Fall River counties. Standard terms and conditions, as well as stipulations identified in Appendix A of the EA would apply.

Lease SDM 98206 would be reinstated in conformance with stipulations proposed in Alternative B of the EA.

Alternative C – BLM Preferred Alternative. The preferred alternative would be to offer 1 parcel (80.00 acres of Federal minerals) for competitive and/or noncompetitive lease issuance. A total of 14 parcels, containing 5,115.19 acres, of Federal minerals under private surface would be deferred from leasing, and no parcels would be partially offered for competitive and/or noncompetitive lease issuance and partially deferred. The lease parcel to be offered is located within the SDFO area of administration in Harding County. Standard terms and conditions, as well as stipulations identified in Appendix A of the EA would apply.

Lease SDM 98206 would be reinstated in conformance with stipulations proposed in Appendix C of the EA.

Public Comments:

On February 10, 2014 this EA was made available for a 30-day public comment period. One written submission was received during the 30-day comment period. The comment addressed public safety concerns with leasing the parcels within the Black Hills Army Depot (BHAD). The 14 parcels located within the BHAD were deferred for public safety and cultural resources concerns.

No public comments were received on the reinstatement of oil and gas lease SDM 98206.

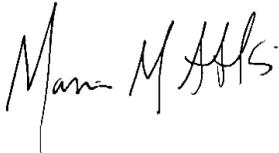
On April 16, 2014, the Bureau of Land Management provided notice that 1 parcel of land (80.00 acres) would be offered in a competitive oil and gas lease sale on July 15, 2014; this lease sale notice initiated a 30-day protest period for the lease sale. No protests were received.

Rationale for the Decision:

The decision to approve Alternative C, the preferred alternative, 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.

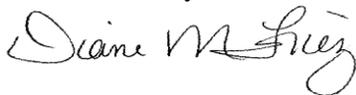
1. The decision is in conformance with the South Dakota Resource Management Plan (RMP) and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), approved in April 1986, and the Miles City District Oil and Gas RMP/EIS Amendment, approved on February 2, 1994.
2. It is the policy of the Bureau of Land Management (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 SDFO to address site specific resource concerns or new information not identified in the planning process.

Recommended by:



Marian M. Atkins, Field Manager
Date July 3, 2014

Concurrence by:



Diane M. Friez, District Manager
Date July 3, 2014

Approved by:



James A. Albano, Acting Deputy State Director, Division of Energy, Minerals and Realty
Date: July 3, 2014