

December 17, 2012

Bureau of Land Management  
Attn: Becky Hammond  
Bureau of Land Management  
440 West 200 South, Suite 500  
Salt Lake City, Utah 8410

Dear Bureau of Land Management:

I would like to submit to you this letter of protest regarding the Competitive Lease Sale and proposed list of parcels for the quarterly competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled for Feb. 19, 2013, in Salt Lake City. I and many others have been concerned for a long time about the oil, gas and mineral lease and sales of public lands in many parts of the country. It has been frustrating enough to have these public lands auctioned off mostly to the benefit of gas, oil, and mining companies, but what seems even more egregious is this has not necessarily been in the best interests of the public and how they might want to see their lands preserved or managed. What is even more difficult to witness is the destruction that then ensues in the actual exploration and extraction of these public resources. In addition, this destruction does not often confine itself to the public lands leased but spreads out to include adjacent land (private and public), resources (often water) and wildlife way beyond the scope of the parcels leased or sold.

I know that Environmental Impact or Assessments reports are often a part of the initial process but these often prove inadequate in addressing what often become the inevitable destructive consequences. These consequences often being the compromised health and well being of adjacent ecosystems and the beings that rely on those ecosystems. Currently fracking like strip mining has a proven track record of being a detrimental practice, so why should either still be allowed on public lands? Why is the burden of proof always citizens having to provide information (and they often do) about how harmful these practices are? Especially since the evidence is in that strip mining, mountain top removal, and fracking have destroyed the drinking water of many communities and increased cancers and serious health issues in other human communities, not to mention the environmental degradation and the health and loss of many other species.

This reminds me of the tobacco industry telling the public that smoking or chewing tobacco did not pose any serious health risks, or the nuclear industry telling the public that eventually (and that was more than 30 years ago) they/we will eventually find a safe way to store, transport or use spent uranium. It still has not become our reality.

With all of this "damning" evidence already available I would like to suggest another approach to public land leasing. Until these extraction industries (or any others) can disprove the harm their technologies cause to human and non-humans they cannot operate on or extract resources from public lands.

I know most of us use the resources provided by these industries so at some level we are all responsible, but I believe we should be looking at other resources to power our world in addition to having "less stuff". In the mean time we need to at least make sure that the extraction processes for these resources are not as bad, or more detrimental to the environment than their actual use.

Sincerely,

Lisa Carter  
PO Box 477  
Moab, UT 84532

