RUB

December 17, 2012

BLM
Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155

RE: February 2013 Oil and Gas Lease Sale Protest

Dear Mr. Bankert

Enclosed please find your letter to Mr. Goble. I am the CMO at IU Health North but at no point in time meant to imply that I was representing IU Health North.

To the contrary, I represent my husband and me. WE are owners:

Lynda Smirz and Russell Walker
60 West Kane Canyon Drive,
Moab, UT 84532

Moreover, WE will be less than one mile from the drill site of oil and gas well lease UT0213-042. It is OUR well that will be at risk, OUR street that will have heavy truck traffic and OUR air quality that will be affected by drilling on this parcel.

When we bought our property, we actually took comfort in the fact that the BLM owned so much land in the canyon. The reason for that was: ***we thought it would be protected***. We are resending our protest on plain white paper. It is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Lynda A Smirz, private citizen and landowner

cc. Jon Goble

November 29, 2012

US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Utah State Office
440 W. 200 S. Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84145

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to officially request during this 30-day protest period that the parcel known as UT0213-042 which has been designated for the February, 2013, oil and gas lease sale be removed from consideration.

For the following listed reasons, it is my opinion that this parcel should be removed from this sale:

1. The parcel is very close to the aquifer for Moab Valley. It is also less than a mile from the only water supply at my home in Kane Creek Canyon. If my well becomes contaminated, my newly built home will be virtually worthless.
2. The recreation and complex topography of this area makes this particular parcel untenable for development. The area in Kane Creek Canyon is home to many enthusiasts for outdoor activities to include Jeep, rock crawlers, and ATV lovers along with hikers.
3. The air quality in the Moab Valley during the 12 years that my husband and I have been associated with this area has decreased dramatically. The development of this particular parcel will only add to the morning and evening haze which now cause the bright blue sky to be obscured on a number of days.
4. The need for this particular parcel to be developed is questionable. Recently a report showed that the number of states that are in some form of a drought has increased over the last 2 years. The Moab Valley has been under a severe drought for this period of time. The amount of land in an extreme or exceptional drought (the 2 worst classifications) has increased from 18.3 % to 19.04% over the last 2 years. The development of this parcel will indeed impact ground and drinking water in a situation where drought is already of grave concern.
5. The amount of energy usage in the US has decreased over the last 2 years with the development of green technologies and more fuel efficient cars. We should continue to encourage this conservation rather than continue to damage our environment.

I respectfully request that parcel UT0213-042 be removed from the February, 2013 oil and gas lease sale. Numerous petitions with thousands of signatures have already been delivered to the Moab Field Office protesting the listing of this particular parcel for lease sale. It is now time that the Bureau of Land Management exercise its responsibility to protect the environment and the people who live in and use this area. There is a duty to heed the concerns of the citizens that have tried to make their voices heard through the petitions delivered to the Moab Bureau of Land Management. Stop putting money ahead of people.

Sincerely,

Lynda Smith, MD MBA

60 West Kane Canyon Drive
Moab, UT 84532

2459 Laurel Lakes Blvd
Carmel, IN 46032

RECEIVED DEC 17 2012

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155
http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html

DEC 1 1 2012

IN REPLY REFER TO:
3100/(UT-92200)

CERTIFIED MAIL -7008 1140 0000 1668 6224
Return Receipt Requested

Indiana University Health North Hospital
Jonathan Goble, President & Chief Executive Officer
11700 North Meridian Street
Carmel, Indiana 46032

RE: February 2013 Oil and Gas Lease Sale Protest

Dear Mr. Goble:

On December 7, 2012, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Utah State Office received a protest from the Indiana University Health North Hospital (IUHNH) regarding our upcoming February 2013 Oil and Gas Lease Sale. This protest was filed by IUHNH's Chief Medical Officer, Lynda Smirz. The purpose of this letter is to clarify the official position of IUHNH. As identified in our Notice of Competitive Lease Sale (NCLS) issued on November 16, 2012, a person or party may protest the inclusion of a parcel listed in this sale notice (43 CFR 3120.1-3).

The protest must meet several requirements including the following:

- If the party signing the protest is doing so on behalf of an association, partnership or corporation, the signing party must reveal the relationship between them. For example, unless an environmental group authorizes an individual member of its group to act on their behalf, the individual cannot make a protest in the group's name.

- Protest must include the name and address of the protesting party.

Enclosed for your reference is the subject protest which remains part of our administrative record. It is unclear if this protest reflects the interest of IUHNH. It is noted that IUHNH did not participate in the BLM's official public scoping and comment periods prior to issuing the NLCS.

At your earliest convenience, but prior to December 21, 2013, could you clarify, in writing, whether this is a valid IUHNH protest and that Chief Medical Officer Smirz is authorized to submit a protest on behalf of the IUHNH or request that this protest be withdrawn from consideration?

If you have questions on this matter, please contact Pam Schuller of my staff by telephone (801-539-4050) or by email (pschulle@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

Roger L Bankert

Roger Bankert
Chief, Branch of Minerals

Enclosure:
1. IUHNH Protest Letter

cc: Indiana University Health North Hospital, Lynda Smirz, Chief Medical Officer
11700 North Meridian Street, Carmel, Indiana 46032

Operation Smile Charities

Lynda Smirz
2459 Laurel Lake Blvd.
Carmel, IN 46032

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Forever USA

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Roger Barhert
Utah State Office
P. O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155