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NPS SEUG HQ

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 Southeast Utah Group
 Arches and Canyonlands National Parks
 Hovenweep and Natural Bridges National Monuments
 2282 S. West Resource Boulevard
 Moab, Utah 84532-3298

L7619 (SEUG-RSS)

December 8, 2014

Memorandum

To: Utah State Office, Bureau of Land Management (Attn: Justin Abornathy)

From: Superintendent, Southeast Utah Group, National Park Service *Kate Cannon*

Subject: Protest, February 2015 Oil and Gas Lease Sale, Canyon Country District

With this memorandum, the National Park Service (NPS) hereby protests the inclusion of four parcels in the February 2015 oil and gas lease sale for the Canyon Country District. NPS interest in this lease sale concerns the potential impacts of future oil and gas development on resources and values associated with Hovenweep National Monument, which is located within 15 miles of 13 parcels that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has proposed to include in this lease sale.

In a previous memorandum dated 20 Oct 2014, NPS provided BLM with detailed comments on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA no. DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2014-026) for the February 2015 lease sale. These comments focused primarily on NPS concerns about potential future impacts on the quality of night skies viewed from Hovenweep, which in 2014 was certified as an International Dark Sky Park. In addition, our comments expressed similar concerns about potential future impacts on natural soundscape conditions experienced at Hovenweep. In response to these comments, BLM developed lease notice UT-LN-125, "Light and Sound -- Areas Near Units of the National Park System," and indicated in the final EA that UT-LN-125 would be attached to nine of 13 lease parcels located within 15 miles of Hovenweep. We greatly appreciate BLM's response to NPS concerns, and we look forward to working together on specific strategies for effectively mitigating development impacts on night skies, natural soundscapes, and other resources and values. However, we note that four parcels (UT0215-051, UT0215-052, UT0215-090, and UT0215-115) located within 15 miles of Hovenweep were not included among those to which UT-LN-125 will be attached. We protest inclusion of these four parcels in the February 2015 oil and gas lease sale without attachment of UT-LN-125.

If you have any questions regarding this protest, please contact me at 435-719-2101 or kate_cannon@nps.gov.

cc: Superintendent, Hovenweep and Natural Bridges National Monuments

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Southeast Utah Group

Canyonlands N.P.
Arches N.P.
Natural Bridges N.M.
Hovenweep N.M.

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you do not receive all
the pages or have trouble
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Date: 12/8/2014

To: BLM UTAH STATE OFFICE, ATTN: JUSTIN ABERNATHY

Fax: 801-539-4237 (435)719-2300 [fax]

From: MARK MILLER (435-719-2130)

Pages: COVER + 1

Subject: PROTEST, FEB 2015 O&G LEASE SALE