



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Boulevard
Reno, Nevada 89502-7147
<http://www.blm.gov/nevada>

FEB 10 2020

In Reply Refer To:
3100 (NV920)

CERTIFIED MAIL 9171 9690 0935 0138 2779 99

DECISION

Mary Greene : Protest of Parcels in the
National Wildlife Federation : December 17, 2019
: Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Protest Denied Parcels Offered For Sale

On November 26, 2019, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office (NVSO), timely received a protest¹ from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). NWF protested the December 17, 2019 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale (the Sale), which relies on the Battle Mountain District Office's (BMDO) Environmental Assessment (EA), DOI-BLM-NV-B000-2019-0010-EA, the Ely District Office's (EYDO) Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-NV-L000-2019-0005-EA, and associated FONISs. The NWF protest consisted of a one-page fax cover sheet with no additional attachments.

The BLM published a Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Internet Lease Sale² on November 1, 2019 offering 272 parcels for the December 2019 Lease Sale, subsequently reduced to 156 parcels in errata. The Sale Notice specifies the requirements of all protests (at pages xi-xii):

- *We must receive a protest within 30 calendar days of the posting date of this Notice. All protests must be received no later than 4:00 pm (PST) on December 1, 2019. If our office is not open on the 30th day after the posting, a protest received on the next day our office is open to the public will be considered timely filed. We will dismiss a late-filed protest.*
- *The protest must include a statement of reasons to support the protest. We will dismiss a protest filed without a statement of reasons.*

¹ The protest is posted on the BLM website, located at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/leasing/regional-lease-sales/nevada>

² The Sale Notice and NEPA documents are posted to the BLM's website with links to the documents located at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/leasing/regional-lease-sales/nevada>

- *A protest must state the interest of the protesting party in the matter, including the name and address of the protesting party, and reference the specific serial number that is being protested.*
- *You may file a protest either by hand delivery, by telefax or mailed in hardcopy form. You may not file a protest by electronic mail. A protest filed by fax must be sent to (775) 861-6745. We will dismiss a protest sent to a fax number other than the fax number identified or a protest filed by electronic mail.*
- *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 association authorizes an individual member of its group to act on their behalf, the individual cannot make a protest in the group's name.*
- *The protest document must be signed. Unsigned protest documents will be dismissed.*
- *Please be advised that all protest information and correspondence shall be made publically available.*

The Sale Notice specifies that a protest must reference the specific serial number of the parcel(s) being protested, must include the address of the protesting party, and that a protest must include a statement of reasons to support the protest. This protest filed by NWF did not reference specific parcel serial numbers or state their intent to protest all parcels, did not include the address of the protesting party, and did not contain a statement of reasons to support the protest. The BLM NVSO cannot accept your protest as it was not submitted in accordance with the Sale Notice; for these reasons, NWF's protest is denied.

APPEAL INFORMATION

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and Form 1842-1 (enclosed). If an appeal is taken, a notice of appeal and/or request for stay must be filed in writing, on paper, in this office, either by mail or personal delivery within 30 days after the date of service. Notices of appeal and/or request for stay that are electronically transmitted (e.g., email, facsimile, or social media) will not be accepted as timely filed. The notice of appeal is considered filed as of the date our office receives the hard copy and places our BLM date stamp on the document.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) (request) for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate office of the Solicitor (*see* 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact Brian C. Amme, Deputy State Director, Minerals Division, at (775) 861-6585.



Brian C. Amme
Deputy State Director, Minerals Management
Nevada State Office

Enclosure:

1- Form 1842-1

cc (electronic):

WO310
NVB0000
NVB0100
NVB0200
NVL0000
NVL0100
NVL0300
NV0920 (B. Amme)
NV0922 (K. Anderson, F. Kaminer, J. Menghini, J. Estrella)

bcc: Kathryn Brinton, Office of the Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region,
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712, Sacramento, California, 95825
Lease Sale Book December 2019
Reading File: NV-922