

News Release



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DOI Chooses Redundant Analysis Over Domestic Energy Development *Decides Seven Year Analysis Insufficient; More bureaucracy and red tape needed*

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) today expressed grave concern at the findings of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) interdisciplinary review team regarding 77 leases from the BLM's December 19, 2008 Utah lease sale. The failure of the team to balance the nation's need for natural gas with the small, temporary impact of energy development runs contrary to President Obama's energy goals and will have a further chilling effect on Utah's economy.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) failed to reinstate a single lease, and has decided to arbitrarily withdraw 8 parcels completely from energy development. DOI chose further redundant analysis on 52 leases, despite having spent seven years conducting environmental analysis before the lease sale.

The BLM interdisciplinary team conducted an extra-procedural review of leases fairly won in a regular quarterly auction. The December lease sale followed a seven-year comprehensive, public land management planning process in which no new acreage was opened to energy leasing that was not available before, and no lands have fewer restrictions on them than before. Rather than accept those fairly won bids, Interior Secretary Salazar cancelled the leases and later decided to conduct a review of that decision.

"IPAMS believes all 77 leases should be reinstated. The closest parcel to a National Park is four miles away, but most were several tens of miles away and all were adjacent to existing natural gas fields or leases," noted IPAMS Director of Government Affairs Kathleen Sgamma. "We wonder why the Administration continues to undertake actions that limit economic development in the West, decrease energy security and make addressing climate change even more difficult. Natural gas producers in Utah and the Intermountain West produce 27% of America's natural gas on less than 0.07% of public lands. With this decision, our government is continuing to deny access to American energy that belongs to all Americans, and making it even more difficult to increase energy security and tackle climate change."

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About IPAMS

The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent natural gas and oil producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants committed to environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.