



December 19, 2011

Montana Petroleum Association, Inc.  
406.442.7582 phone  
406.443.7291 fax  
mpa@montanapetroleum.org  
www.montanapetroleum.org

## Heard It Through The Pipeline

### **MPA APPOINTS PUBLISHER OF “THE TREASURE STATE JOURNAL”**

The Montana Petroleum Association is pleased to announce the appointment of PTR Communications as publishers of the upcoming 2012 edition of “*The Treasure State Journal*”, our popular biannual magazine. As a forum for the interchange of ideas within Montana’s oil and gas community, “*The Treasure State Journal*” generates interest and investment within our industry and keeps policy makers informed on current issues. “*The Treasure State Journal*” is a key component of our mission to promote responsible energy development in Montana. Our magazine will be circulated prior to the MPA Annual General Meeting August 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> to oil and natural gas producers, gathering and pipeline companies, petroleum refiners, service providers and consultants. PTR Communications specializes in high quality industry magazines and we are excited to see a new look and fresh approach realized in the 2012 “*The Treasure State Journal*”.

### **BLM ANNOUNCES MORE RESTRICTIONS TO PROTECT SAGE GROUSE**

The BLM continues to push for more restrictions to protect sage grouse. The fact that the USFWS said the bird merits protection is the reason cited by BLM to tighten sage grouse protections across BLM land that is considered sage grouse habitat. The Montana office has scheduled “stakeholder” meetings to get information from the public to help them in the conservation efforts. Meetings have been scheduled in Lewistown (January 10<sup>th</sup>), Dillon (January 12) and Bowman ND (January 17). You can learn more about all these efforts at the following site:

<http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/prog/wildlife/mtdksplanning.html>

BLM sent the following memo today:

*The BLM is initiating an environmental impact statement and plan amendment for public lands and mineral estates in central Montana. The planning effort will be known as the Greater Sage-Grouse EIS/Amendment for the Lewistown Field Office. As part of this new plan, we must prepare an oil and gas Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario for 766,752 surface acres administered by the BLM and 1.9 million subsurface acres for public lands administered by the Lewistown Field Office within Chouteau (south of the Missouri River), Fergus, Judith Basin, Meagher and Petroleum counties. We are gathering oil and gas resource information on the potential magnitude and trend of future activity in order to analyze associated management activities, future decisions, and environmental impact. In particular, this analysis will look at potential activity during the next twenty years (2012-2032).*

*I am also enclosing a copy of the “template letter” that was sent to these parties for your reference and convenience.*

*While I cannot provide you with the thirty-five (35) names that will receive this letter, my hope is that if you have an interest anywhere within this area that the BLM may not be aware of, or are aware of someone who is, to consider submitting the information we are requesting. In doing so, it will help us to analyze associated management activities, future decisions, and environmental impact, and at the same time identify those areas where the BLM may receive expressions of interest. This will help us in the future to attempt to expedite those areas of interest and to ensure that our environmental documents are satisfactory to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).*

Both of their attachments are also in the attachments to this newsletter.

## **ENERGY IMPACT NEWS**

Over the last few months, we have heard quite a bit about oil and gas impacts in eastern Montana. Legislators from both sides of the aisle and both sides of the State have toured the eastern side of our State. There are many ideas including increased tax contributions from industry to help address these impacts. MPA is involved and will be working with members to offer constructive ideas. There are several articles that you should be aware of, both attached to this newsletter and at the following link:

Helena Independent Record: [http://helenair.com/special-section/montana-economy/billings-ahead-of-almost-everywhere-agriculture-retail-energy-health-care/article\\_d452562e-3a30-51aa-ab37-3ddb8bf97c6f.html](http://helenair.com/special-section/montana-economy/billings-ahead-of-almost-everywhere-agriculture-retail-energy-health-care/article_d452562e-3a30-51aa-ab37-3ddb8bf97c6f.html)

[http://helenair.com/special-section/montana-economy/missoula-maintains-slow-growth-due-to-depressed-wood-building-industries/article\\_ea24c9aa-5dc5-5d1f-8557-90348d4c16da.html](http://helenair.com/special-section/montana-economy/missoula-maintains-slow-growth-due-to-depressed-wood-building-industries/article_ea24c9aa-5dc5-5d1f-8557-90348d4c16da.html)

[http://helenair.com/special-section/montana-economy/stalled-by-government-fed-state-pay-freeze-thwarts-helena-growth/article\\_77c9e540-71e2-5bb9-8014-c6e13f32ff7a.html](http://helenair.com/special-section/montana-economy/stalled-by-government-fed-state-pay-freeze-thwarts-helena-growth/article_77c9e540-71e2-5bb9-8014-c6e13f32ff7a.html)

Fairfield Sun Times:

<http://fairfieldsuntimes.com/articles/2011/12/17/business/doc4ee7c669bc38a569548568.txt>

Please see the attached articles from the Sidney Herald, and one from Rep. Matt Rosendale that appeared in the Missoulian.

## **BLM VALUATION LETTER**

Please see the attached Bakken Formation Reporting and Valuation Information Dear Reporter Letter dated December 5th, 2011. This letter is for companies with Federal and Indian leases in the Bakken formation in North Dakota and Montana. There are no specific issues being identified in this letter. It is general guidance on our regulations and contact information for FM and Valuation.

This letter will also be published on the ONRR website at <http://onrr.gov/DearRep.htm>

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Please mark your calendar for the Energy Expo on April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> in Billings. Information will be coming out right after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

## OTHER NEWS

### 2012 MPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PACKETS

The 2012 MPA membership renewal packets were mailed before Thanksgiving so you should have them. MPA appreciates the support you have shown in the past and hopes that you continue to be a member next year. If there is anything we can do for you, or if your packet did not arrive please contact either Dave or Bobbie at [mpa@montanapetroleum.org](mailto:mpa@montanapetroleum.org) or call 406-442-7582.

### THANK YOU TO 2012 NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS (11/22/11 – 12/19/11):

#### Companies:

Abercrombie Pipeline Services, LLC; Anadarko Minerals, Inc.; Ballard Petroleum Holdings, LLC; Billings Chamber of Commerce/CVB; Bison Engineering, Inc.; Bjork Lindley Little, PC; CGRS; Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP; DLD Enterprises, LLC; Edmonds Energy Corp.; Great Northern Drilling Company Inc.; Holcim (US) Inc.; Hydrometrics, Inc.; HydroSolutions, Inc.; Jefferson Energy Trading, LLC; Klabzuba Oil & Gas; Knapp Oil Corporation; Kootenai Resource Corp.; Lee Law Office PC; Loenbro; Montana & Wyoming Oil Company; NCI Engineering Co.; Northern Oilfield Services, Inc.; O'Toole Law Firm; PEC Premier; Primary Petroleum Corporation; Quicksilver Resources, Inc.; Sequel Energy, LLC; Somont Oil Company, Inc.; Spence Accounts, Inc.; Summers, McNea & Company, PC; T-K Production Company; Trihydro Corporation; Western Natural Gas Company; Whiting Petroleum Corporation; WWC Engineering

#### Individuals:

Carl Cheetham; Tom Ebzery; Darryl Flowers; John Fredlund; Bill Galt; Leland Griffin; Matt Hertz; Melissa Lewis; Jon Metropoulos; Patrick Navratil; Bryan Rogan; Robert Schalla; Barb Skelton; Joy Stevens; Tim Tharp; Bill War; Corey Welter; Gary Willis

### MPA HOLIDAY HOURS

The MPA office will be closed on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> in honor of the Christmas holiday. The New Year holiday falls on Sunday in 2012, so the MPA office will be closed Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate the New Year.