

# Montana Petroleum Association

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## HEARD IT THROUGH THE PIPELINE

March 15, 2010

### BLM SUSPENDS MONTANA 2008 LEASES

This Friday the BLM called to advise that it would be suspending 61 parcels that it leased in 2008 in a settlement to three environmental groups, the Wild Earth Guardians, the Montana Environmental Information Center, and the Oil and Gas Accountability Project funded by Earthworks. The challenge claimed that BLM had not adequately assessed the impacts of climate change that these leases would have. BLM and Interior folks were concerned that they might lose this case in the Court of Judge Don Malloy of Missoula, and also feared an adverse appeal, if necessary, in the 9<sup>th</sup> circuit. BLM will do the climate analysis in house. Any parcels that an operator may have requested a drilling permit, would be prioritized. BLM did not have details on how they would do the environmental analysis or when it would be finished. Since the filing of the settlement occurred at 5:30 PM last Friday, not much has made the press. The following link was in the Billings Gazette:

[http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article\\_d02ee4f4-2e5e-11df-8e16-001cc4c002e0.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article_d02ee4f4-2e5e-11df-8e16-001cc4c002e0.html)

IPAMS was an intervenor in this challenge. IPAMS was not included in the settlement discussions. Oddly, BLM came to IPAMS to explain the agreement on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>; but required them to abide by a non-disclosure agreement and not talk about the discussion until after the filing. So much for open government and transparency!

I have attached the original petition to the court, an excel spreadsheet of the leases and lease holders, and the settlement agreements. MPA will keep you posted as with any news on this subject.

### EPA REGULATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

MPA continues to ask Montana Senators Baucus and Tester to do something to prevent EPA from proceeding with the regulation of GHG. MPA has asked that our Senators support efforts by Senator Murkowski; however, they have been reluctant to support her disapproval resolution. MPA has written two lengthy letters to both Senator Tester and Senator Baucus. Furthermore, since May of 2009, MPA has written a total of 5 letters to both Senators with our views on climate change legislation that were active at the time. These letters are important and will give members an idea of our involvement and the position MPA has taken. These letters have been posted on the MPA website, [www.montanapetroleum.org](http://www.montanapetroleum.org) under the "Articles and Reports" tab.

### MPA E&S COMMITTEE AND WILDLIFE PRESENTATION

MPA's Environment and Safety Committee will meet in the Petroleum Club on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Interested members are invited to attend and the agenda is attached.

At 2:00PM on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Division will provide a demonstration of the GIS based mapping program that they have been working on for some time. This session will be held in Conference Room 5, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Billings. The program will be available for use on the FWP website and contains quite a bit of information including areas that are important to different species of wildlife, ownership, future development, just to name a few. MPA encourages you to attend. The session is free of charge. If anyone plans to attend either or both meetings, please let Bobbie know at [MPA@montanapetroleum.org](mailto:MPA@montanapetroleum.org)

### **THANK YOU TO 2010 NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS (1/30/10 – 3/15/10):**

#### Companies:

Anschutz Exploration Corporation; Aspen Consulting & Engineering, Inc.; Beartooth Oil & Gas Co.; Behm Energy; BP America, Inc.; Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry & Hoven, P.C.; CDM, Inc.; CHS Inc.; ConocoPhillips; Consolidated Tax Service, LLP; Crowley Fleck PLLP; Edgen Murray Corporation; Enbridge Energy Company, Inc.; Encore Operating LP; Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, PLLP; Golden Oil Co.; Great Northern Drilling Company Inc.; Great Plains Resources; Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC; Hydrometrics, Inc.; Keesun Corporation; Marcy Construction Company; Mountain Pacific General, Inc.; Nabors Well Services, Inc.; Oasis Petroleum North America LLC; Omimex Canada Ltd.; O'Toole Law Firm; O'Toole Oil Inc.; PBS&J; Pinnacle Gas Resources; Solenex LLC; St. Mary Land & Exploration Co.; Terracon Consultants, Inc.; True Oil LLC; Western Natural Gas Company

#### Individuals:

Gail Abercrombie, GailA Consulting; Bill DeLapp