



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



January 22, 2016

Dear Stakeholder:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would like to invite you to attend a public forum on the BLM's proposed rule to reduce waste of natural gas from venting, flaring, and leaks during oil and natural gas production activities on onshore Federal and Indian (except Osage Tribe) leases. The proposed rule would also clarify when produced gas lost through venting, flaring, or leaks is subject to royalties, and when oil and gas production used on site would be royalty-free.

One of the purposes of these meetings is for the BLM to obtain additional public input on the proposed rule. This proposed rule would be codified at new 43 CFR subparts 3178 and 3179. They would replace the existing provisions related to venting, flaring, and royalty-free use of gas contained in the 1979 Notice to Lessees and Operators of Onshore Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases, Royalty or Compensation for Oil and Gas Lost (NTL-4A). While oil and gas production technology has advanced dramatically in recent years, the BLM's requirements to minimize waste of gas have not been updated in recent years. The BLM believes there are economical, cost-effective, and reasonable measures that operators should take to minimize waste, which will enhance our nation's natural gas supplies, boost royalty receipts for federal taxpayers, tribes, and States, and reduce environmental damage from venting and flaring. This proposal also respond directly to concerns from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General, and the Secretary's Subcommittee on Royalty Management, that the BLM's rules should be enhanced to ensure that oil and gas waste is minimized on public and Indian lands. The GAO's concerns about the BLM's existing rules have contributed to the Department's inclusion on the GAO's High Risk List. The BLM posted an advanced copy of the proposed rule to its website at: <http://on.doi.gov/11aOhh4>. This proposed rule will be published in the *Federal Register* for a 60 day comment period.

The BLM appreciates our relationship and would like to continue the dialogue begun in 2014. The dates and location information for the upcoming public meetings are included on the following page; additional details will be provided on the BLM's website at <http://on.doi.gov/11aOhh4>. You are welcome to attend any meeting(s) convenient to you.

Public Meetings

Date: February 16, 2016
Location: Farmington, NM
San Juan College
Room 7103
4601 College Blvd
Farmington, NM 87402
Phone: 505-326-3311
Time: Public meeting at 1:00 pm

Date: February 18, 2016
Location: Oklahoma City, OK
Renaissance Oklahoma City
Convention Center Hotel
10 North Broadway Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Phone: 405-228-8000
Time: Public meeting at 1:00 pm

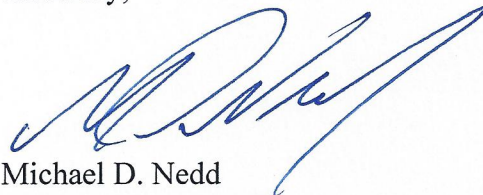
Date: March 1, 2016
Location: Denver, CO
Time: Public meeting at 1:00 pm
Holiday Inn Denver Lakewood
7390 West Hampden
Lakewood, CO 80227
Phone: 303-980-9200
Time: Public meeting at 1:00 pm

Date: March 3, 2016
Location: Dickinson, ND
Astoria Hotel and Event
Center
363 15th Street W.
Dickinson, ND 58601
Phone 701-456-5000
Time: Public meeting at 1:00 pm

For all meetings: To access the audio portion of the presentation, please call: 1-888-469-3312 and enter the passcode 2011952#. Participants will be asked to state their names prior to joining the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this invitation. Please RSVP no later than February 10 for February 16 and 18 meetings and February 24 for March 1 and 3 meetings to blm_wo_og_comments@blm.gov and specify which meeting you will be attending. If you have any questions about meeting logistics, please contact Matt Spangler at (202) 912-7035 or questions about the proposed rule, please contact Tim Spisak via email at tspisak@blm.gov. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these and other matters.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Nedd
Assistant Director
Energy, Minerals and Realty Management