

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*) and the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001–1025) authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue leases for development of Federal oil and gas and geothermal resources. The Act of August 7, 1947 (Mineral Leasing Act of Acquired Lands) authorizes the Secretary to lease lands acquired by the United States (30 U.S.C. 341–359). The Department of the Interior Appropriations Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 6508) provides for the competitive leasing of lands for oil and gas in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA). The Attorney General's Opinion of April 2, 1941 (40 Opinion of Attorney General 41) provides the basis under which the Secretary issues certain leases for lands drained of mineral resources. The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 *et seq.*) provides the authority for leasing lands acquired from the General Services Administration.

The regulations at 43 CFR 3106, 3135, and 3216 outline the procedures for assigned record title interest and transferring operating rights in a lease to explore for, develop, and produce oil and gas resources and geothermal resources.

The assignor/transferor provides the needed information to comply with the regulations in order to process the assignments of record title interest or transfer of operating rights (sublease) in a lease for oil and gas or geothermal resources. The assignor/transferor submits the required information to BLM for approval in accordance with 30 U.S.C. 187a and the regulations at 43 CFR 3106, 3135, and 3216.

BLM uses the information submitted by the assignor/transferor to identify the interest ownership that is assigned or transferred and the qualifications of the assignee/transferee. BLM determines if the assignee/transferee is qualified to obtain the interest sought and ensures the assignee/transferee does not exceed statutory acreage limitations.

Based on BLM's experience administering the activities described above, we estimate the public reporting burden for the information collected to average 30 minutes per response. The respondents include individuals, small businesses, and large corporations. The frequency of response is annual. The estimated number of response per year is 60,000. The estimated total annual burden is 30,000 hours. BLM specifically requests your comments on its estimate of the amount of time that it takes to prepare a response.

BLM will summarize all responses to this notice and include them in the

request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 18, 2000.

**Michael Schwartz,**

*BLM Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00–32656 Filed 12–21–00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–84–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[UT–080–1430–PF]

#### Land Closure

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Temporary Emergency Closure of public land in Uintah County, Utah.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Vernal Field Office herewith re-issues a temporary emergency closure of public land in Uintah County, Utah, effective January 1, 2001. This order temporarily closes 1,320 acres of public land to public use and entry. This temporary closure area encompasses the following public land:

#### Salt Lake Meridian, Utah

T.10 S., R. 24 E.,

Sec. 22, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 23, W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Sec. 26, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 27, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The authorized officer, has determined that the underground methane generation occurring at the abandoned White River Oil Shale Mine is a safety hazard making the facility and surrounding area unsafe for human occupation or activity. The closure area effects the above described public land presently encumbered by the abandoned White River Oil Shale Mine, ancillary support facilities, and associated ventilation shafts. The closure prohibits all use, entry, or access onto the affected public lands; however, the access restriction may be waived under extraordinary circumstances where limited, short term, emergency access is warranted and appropriate clearances and authorization are obtained from the authorized officer.

Where emergency access is authorized by the authorized officer, it would be conditioned on the following provisions:

All persons entering and leaving the closure area shall be accompanied by personnel from the BLM's Vernal Field Office and only after said BLM staff

have determined that the area is safe for site visitation purposes.

All persons allowed emergency access into the closure area shall waive and release all direct and indirect claims that may occur against the United States for liability for any loss, damage, personal injury, or death that may occur as a result of their access to the closure area and will indemnify and hold harmless the United States. All such incidents shall immediately be reported to the BLM Field Office.

The purpose of this closure is to protect human life, ensure public safety, and to prevent human contact with a known hazardous situation. A map of the area affected by this closure is on file and may be viewed at the Vernal Field Office of the BLM.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The closure order is effective from January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2002, unless, prior thereto, it is rescinded or modified by the authorized officer.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This closure is under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1. Persons violating this closure shall be subject to the penalties provided in 43 CFR 8360.0–7, including a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 and/or imprisonment not to exceed one year.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The BLM Vernal Field office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah 84078, (435) 781–4400.

Dated: December 11, 2000.

**David E. Howell,**

*Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 00–32641 Filed 12–21–00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–DQ–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY–920–1310–01; WYW148518]

#### Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated; Oil and Gas Lease

Pursuant to the provisions of 30 U.S.C. 188(d) and (e), and 43 CFR 3108.2–3(a) and (b)(1), a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease WYW148518 for lands in Hot Springs County, Wyoming, was timely filed and was accompanied by all the required rentals accruing from the date of termination.

The lessee has agreed to the amended lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$5.00 per acre, or fraction thereof, per year and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$  percent, respectively.

The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and \$158 to reimburse the Department for the cost of