



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

March 16, 2020

Stephen S. McDaniel, Director
Division of Natural Resources
324 Fourth Avenue, Room 200
South Charleston, WV 25303-1228

Re: Big Wheeling Creek, (19.482 acres Utica/Point Pleasant formation), Sand Hill and Union Districts, Marshall County – Oil & Gas Leasing

Dear Director McDaniel:

This is in response to your February 26, 2020, request under W. Va. Code § 20-1-7(14) for approval to solicit sealed bids from the public for a lease to develop the oil and gas interests underlying Big Wheeling Creek, (19.482 acres Utica/Point Pleasant formation), Sand Hill and Union Districts, Marshall County, WV. I hereby approve your request, subject to the division ensuring, at a minimum, that:

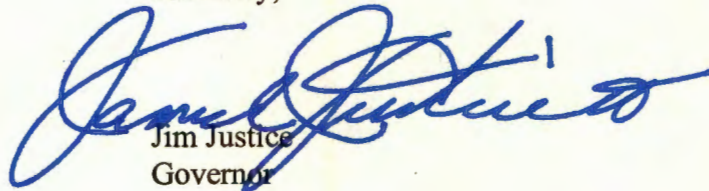
1. The bidding process is competitive and accords with § 20-1-7(14);
2. The bidders are responsible and qualified to hold the lease;
3. The mineral interests will be developed in an orderly, diligent, and timely manner;
4. The mineral interests will be developed in compliance with applicable environmental protection laws and regulations;
5. The state shall receive rents, royalties, or other compensation equal to or greater than the fair market value of the mineral interests leased;
6. The state's royalty shall be free of volumetric and cost deductions (*i.e.*, the lessee shall bear all costs incurred in exploring for, producing, marketing, and transporting the mineral interests to the point of sale), unless the particular circumstances warrant the state bearing a portion of the deductions;

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7. The lessee shall be liable for royalty payments on mineral interests lost or wasted because of negligence or failure to comply with the lease or the law;
8. The lessee shall drill and produce wells necessary to protect the property from drainage or pay compensatory royalty for drainage;
9. The lessee shall regularly furnish detailed statements to the division showing the amount and quality of all minerals extracted and sold, the proceeds therefrom, and the amount used for production purposes or unavoidably lost; and
10. The proposed development is in the best economic interests of the state and will not unreasonably disrupt use and enjoyment of Bear Rock Lake WMA or the division's opportunities to develop other mineral interests in the area.

Although the resulting lease will include other important terms and conditions, I believe the foregoing solicitation and lease requirements are of key importance to ensure that the state receives a fair and reasonable deal. Please see that these requirements are adhered to and highlighted in the solicitation process. If they prove unworkable based on the particular circumstances at issue, please advise. Further, please keep my General Counsel, Brian Abraham, informed of the status of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Justice
Governor

Cc:

Ed Gaunch, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Commerce
Jack Rife, Esq., General Counsel, Department of Commerce
Dave Hardy, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Revenue



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Stephen S. McDaniel
Director
February 26, 2020

The Honorable Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
ATTENTION: Brian Abraham, Chief Counsel

RE: Request for Oil & Gas Lease
19.842 acres Utica/Point Pleasant formation only
Big Wheeling Creek
Sand Hill and Union Districts
Marshall County, West Virginia

Dear Governor Justice,


In accordance with West Virginia Code §20-1-7(14), the Division of Natural Resources hereby requests your approval to put out for public competitive bid the oil & gas in, on and underlying that part of Big Wheeling Creek, being 19.842 acres Utica/Point Pleasant formation only in Sand Hill and Union Districts, Marshall County, West Virginia.

The advertising and bidding procedure will be done in compliance with West Virginia Code §59-3-1.

Your favorable consideration of this request is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen S. McDaniel
Director

Approved: 

Date: 3/10/2020

SSM: jam