



MEDIA RELEASE

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AGNC TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE DETAILING LETTER TO INTERIOR DEPARTMENT RE: ROAN LEASES

GRAND JUNCTION– The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado will hold a press conference on Wednesday, July 3rd, at 9:00 AM at the old Mesa County Courthouse on 6th and Rood, to discuss a letter that the organization sent to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, demanding that the state of Colorado, and all communities within, be held harmless for any financial liability assumed by the federal government in the event that the as-yet undeveloped oil and gas leases on the Roan Plateau are withdrawn or vacated.

Over 54,000 acres on the Roan were sold to private interests for oil and gas development, in accordance with a Congressional mandate, in 2008. It was the largest onshore oil and gas lease sale in the history of the contiguous United States, and netted the federal government nearly \$114 million dollars. The State of Colorado received 49% of that amount (about \$56 million), some of which was subsequently distributed to local governments in the form of grants, or transferred into the General Fund. Since then, the Roan has been tied up in Environmental Impact Studies and environmental litigation which has prevented development.

“It appears increasingly likely that either the BLM will submit to environmentalist legal pressure and vacate the leases, or the accumulated delays will force the current owners of the leases into giving up on them,” said former Congressman Scott McInnis, Executive Director of AGNC. “Either way, those leaseholders will be legally entitled to ask for their money back, and we want to make sure the federal government does not try and get that money by clawing back funds which the State of Colorado and local communities received in good faith and in reliance on those funds being available to them for infrastructure projects and the like.”

The AGNC sent a letter on June 18th to Jewell and Colorado Department of Local Affairs Reeves Brown, outlining the organization’s position. Copies were also forwarded to Governor Hickenlooper, every Colorado State Legislator, and Colorado’s Congressional delegation.

McInnis will be joined at the press conference by AGNC Chairman Mike Samson (Commissioner for Garfield County), AGNC Vice-Chairman Doug Monger (Commissioner from Routt County), and several local and state representatives.

Copies of the letter will be made available to the media at the press conference.

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact AGNC Executive Director Scott McInnis at 970-285-7630

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AGNC is a council of governments representing cities and counties in northwest Colorado including Mesa, Garfield, Rio Blanco, Moffat and Routt.