



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 17, 2013

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AGNC REQUESTS EXTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD FOR NEW OIL SHALE REGULATIONS

PARACHUTE – The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado today formally requested a 60-day extension of the public comment period on the Bureau of Land Management’s proposed amendments to commercial oil shale regulations.

AGNC Executive Director Scott McInnis says that the additional time is necessary to conduct a proper review of the new regulations.

“These are significant changes that are being proposed to the leasing and royalty systems for commercial oil shale, and they could have tremendous impacts on our member county and municipal governments,” said McInnis. “We feel it is imperative that we be allowed sufficient time to fully examine these new regulations, and determine exactly what those impacts are before commenting on them.”

In a letter sent to the BLM requesting the extension, AGNC Chairman Mike Samson, who serves as a Garfield County Commissioner, and Vice-Chairman Doug Monger, Commissioner for Routt County, pointed out that the region covered by AGNC holds the largest and most prolific oil shale deposits in the United States, most of it BLM land.

“Decisions made by federal government agencies concerning oil shale could present serious economic consequences to our counties, municipalities, and citizens,” they said in the letter, adding that they felt it was necessary “to commit additional time and resources to ensure our member governments fully understand the new regulations and the potential impacts they could have on their particular jurisdictions.”

Unless extended, the public comment period for the new regulations will close on May 26, 2013.

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.