



File Code: 1560

Date: February 17, 2009

Ryan Talbott
Allegheny Defense Project
117 West Wood Lane
Kane, PA 16735

Dear Mr. Talbott:

Thank you for your February 4, 2009, letter regarding distribution of the Regional Forester memoranda dated January 16, 2009.

We acknowledge that your organization has a longstanding relationship with this Forest and appreciate your continued interest in resource management. Although the January 16th memoranda were not distributed to the public mailing list, there was no intention to withhold information from anyone.

Please allow me to clarify what has occurred. Upon receipt of the memoranda, they were forwarded under a cover letter (attached) to outstanding and reserved mineral owners because of potential concerns about pending applications and access requests. Courtesy copies were mailed to State and Federal delegation members who have an interest in the Allegheny National Forest.

Anticipating potential concerns about applications and access requests, we offered to meet with POGAM members on January 16th. We notified the Elk, Forest, McKean and Warren County Commissioners, and spoke with the Allegheny National Forest Vacation Bureau, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Meadville Office and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Clarion and Warren offices. A request was made for a conference call-in number due to inability of some to reach our office by the scheduled meeting time.

The January 16th session lasted less than 30 minutes. The purpose was simply to give notice by summarizing the memoranda for applicants and local officials. We did not provide any written information other than the memoranda and cover letters. No attendance records or notes were taken, so there are no documents to send you. We did not interpret or elaborate upon the content of the memoranda, but allowed them to speak for themselves. My intent was simply to efficiently give notice of the memoranda; we did not seek anyone's comment or input. Nothing other than the two memoranda was discussed.

Since January 16th I have held no additional meetings or calls on these memoranda. I met on February 3rd with the President of the Warren Business Chamber at his request and briefly summarized the memoranda. No one else was present. No documents other than copies of the memoranda were provided to him and I have no meeting notes. I did not schedule this session or



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seek input on the memoranda. At no time did I discuss matters that are in litigation or attempt to interpret the direction from the Regional Office.

I hope this alleviates your concerns regarding distribution of the January 16th memoranda. I do not see the need for any further public communication regarding the memoranda, but please be assured that you will be included in any future correspondence concerning these documents.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leanne M. Marten
LEANNE M. MARTEN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Allegheny National Forest
Supervisor's Office

4 Farm Colony Drive
Warren, PA 16365
(814) 723-5150
FAX (814) 726-1465

File Code: 2830/1950

Date: January 16, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed you will find two letters I recently received from Region 9 Regional Forester Kent Connaughton. Both of these letters and their subsequent direction involve the oil and gas program on the Allegheny National Forest. My hope is that the sending of this memo, coupled with phone calls made and meetings held, helps ensure that this information is being widely shared.

The Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement will be published, as directed, on or before February 27, 2009. Furthermore, per the enclosed direction, I have directed District Rangers to not sign/approve any Notice to Proceeds until the requested review by the Regional Office is complete.

I will continue to keep you informed as new information is known. Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leanne M. Marten
LEANNE M. MARTEN
Forest Supervisor





Forest
Service

Eastern Region

626 E. Wisconsin
Suite 800
Milwaukee, WI 53202

File Code: 2830/1950

Date: January 16, 2009

Route To:

Subject: Applications to Access Reserved and Outstanding Minerals

To: Forest Supervisor, Allegheny National Forest

In light of pending litigation involving reserved and outstanding oil and gas development, the Regional Office will review all applications for access to reserved and outstanding oil and gas you have pending as of January 1, 2009. We will also review any applications you receive subsequent to that date.

Joel Strong of the Regional Office PAL staff will be coordinating the review process.

/s/ Kent P. Connaughton
KENT P. CONNAUGHTON
Regional Forester

cc: Joel Strong





Forest
Service

Eastern Region

626 E. Wisconsin
Suite 800
Milwaukee, WI 53202

File Code: 2830/1950

Date: January 16, 2009

Route To:

Subject: Responding to Chief's Instructions Regarding the Forest Plan and Outstanding and Reserved oil and Gas Development

To: Forest Supervisor, Allegheny National Forest

In his decision on the appeals of the Forest Plan (incoming letter 1570-1 of February 15, 2008), the Reviewing Officer for the Chief provided instructions to the Region and Forest regarding the revised Plan and FEIS. The appropriate means to respond to these instructions is via a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the 2007 Forest Plan.

One alternative should include the design criteria contained in the 2007 Forest Plan for access to reserved and outstanding oil and gas interests. Therefore, I am directing you to publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS on or before February 27, 2009. We will coordinate with you to develop and publish the NOI.

We recognize the impact this is likely to have on the Forest program of work. We will work with you to allocate resources for the preparation of an EIS.

If you have further questions, please contact Regional Environmental Coordinator Jim McDonald at jamcdonald@fs.fed.us or (414) 297-3659.

/s/ Kent P. Connaughton
KENT P. CONNAUGHTON
Regional Forester

cc: Jim A McDonald



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