



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: 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





Forest
Service

Eastern Region

626 E. Wisconsin
Suite 800
Milwaukee, WI 53202

File Code: 2830/1950
Route To:

Date: January 16, 2009

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

