

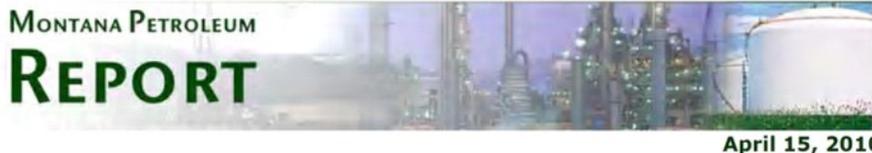
**John (Jack) R. Venrick**

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**From:** "John (Jack) R. Venrick" <jacksranch@skynetbb.com>  
**To:** "AJack R. Venrick" <jacksranch@skynetbb.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:48 PM  
**Subject:** Montana Petroleum Report-  
Please read the 2nd to last paragraph, and understand how the non-producers in this country are able to hi-jack our economy. They've never had to run a business, or hire people and provide livelihood for the working families in this great nation.  
Tim

AND THE VOLCANO IN ICELAND HAS SPEWED MORE CO2 INTO THE ATMOSPHERE IN TWO DAYS THAN THE WORLD DOES IN ONE YEAR FIGURE.

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The Montana Petroleum Report provides information of interest to Montanans. We encourage you to [forward this e-letter to your friends.](#)

— Dave Galt, Executive Director [www.montanapetroleum.org](http://www.montanapetroleum.org)

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***BLM Decision Beyond the Fringe:  
Feds Shut Down Oil & Gas Leases in Three States***



What's really happening with federal policies towards U.S. energy development? First the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) halted development activity on 61 existing oil and gas leases in Montana to settle a lawsuit by three "fringe" environmental groups. Then, just a few weeks ago, the BLM suspended all oil and gas lease auctions in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota – covering 91,000 acres – until it can study the potential impact on climate change.

Meanwhile, people across America continue to need energy and folks in Montana need the jobs the energy industry creates. And Congress has passed no laws requiring energy development be put on hold while climate change impacts are studied.

What prompted BLM to suspend lease sales in these three states? The agency received a "protest filing" on behalf of three environmental interest groups: Montana Environmental Information Center, Earthworks' Oil and Gas Accountability Project, and WildEarth Guardians. Two of these groups are from out of state: one is primarily funded out of Washington, D.C. and the other is headquartered in Santa Fe, NM. The third, MEIC, is an outspoken opponent of leasing Otter Creek coal tracts.

Despite all the rhetoric, these are not community-based, independent environmental groups. These are well-funded, professionally run organizations working to end oil and gas development in America. The WildEarth Guardians say their goal is to address the climate crisis by "attacking fossil fuels at the most opportune points in its filthy lifecycle." Earthworks' OGAP promotes itself as the only program in the U.S. whose sole mission is to prevent "the devastating impacts of oil and gas development," while it declares that "some energy sources are simply too dirty to produce responsibly."

These groups don't really care about America's energy security. They don't care about the 12,000 Montana jobs the oil and gas industry provides or the hundreds of communities in which those jobs are located. And now, the BLM appears to care more about conceding to anti-energy groups than doing what is right for Montana.

By the way, WildEarth Guardians has also drawn a bullseye on livestock grazing on public lands. "No report has ever fully analyzed the incredible environmental costs of livestock grazing on federal public lands," according to the group's report, "[Fiscal Costs of Federal Public Lands Livestock Grazing.](#)"

Some folks in Santa Fe and Washington, D.C. may not understand this, but in Montana we know how to work the land, whether it's raising cattle and wheat or producing oil and gas, and we know how to do it responsibly. We've been providing food and energy to Americans for some time now. Unfortunately, federal policy on public lands seems to be driven by people who have never produced anything but lawsuits.

The Montana Petroleum Association is concerned that this situation is another example of a dangerous trend in federal energy policy that increases regulatory burdens on energy development where no legislation has been enacted. MPA is working with industry groups to ensure BLM is aware of its concerns and will continue efforts to draw public attention to the obstructions thrown up by anti-development interest groups and the troubling acceptance by federal regulators.

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The Montana Petroleum Association, Inc. is a voluntary, non-profit trade association, serving a membership of oil and natural gas producers, gathering and pipeline companies, petroleum refiners, service providers and consultants.

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12/12/2010



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