



**Aubrey Dunn, State Land Commissioner  
State of New Mexico**

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Emily Strickler, Assistant Commissioner for Communications

(505) 827-3650 - office

(505) 470-8829 - mobile

[estrickler@slo.state.nm.us](mailto:estrickler@slo.state.nm.us)

**Land Office Continues to See Big Results in Oil and Gas Lease Sales**

**Santa Fe, NM (November 15, 2016)** – New Mexico State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn announced that the State Land Office’s November oil and gas lease sale generated a total of \$8,432,850 for the state trust beneficiaries. Last month’s sale brought in nearly \$14 million.

The online component of the sale made up the majority of the total bringing in \$7,538,850. The on-site portion of the sale generated \$894,000.

“This is the third month the Land Office has held both online and on-site sales. This new approach is increasing the number of bidders and resulting in a more competitive and successful sale – meaning more money to New Mexico’s public schoolchildren,” said Commissioner Dunn.

A total of twenty-seven tracts located in Lea and Rio Arriba Counties were offered for sale. The highest online tract, in October and in the November sale, was won by Ascent Energy, LLC for a 311.87-acre tract in Lea County for \$5,149,788.13. The highest on-site tract was a 160-acre tract also located in Lea County won by Doug J. Schutz for \$210,000.

The State Land Office is responsible for administering 9 million acres of surface and 13 million acres of subsurface estate for the beneficiaries of the State Land Trust, which includes schools, universities, hospitals and other important public institutions. .

\*\*Online auctions are conducted by the State Land Office auction house contractor, EnergyNet. When posted, the online tract listing can be viewed at [www.energynet.com](http://www.energynet.com). Prospective bidders must register with EnergyNet at [https://www.energynet.com/govt\\_listing.pl](https://www.energynet.com/govt_listing.pl) and abide by the terms and conditions therein.

###