



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

For Immediate Release

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Commissioner Dunn's New Approach to Oil and Gas Lease Sales Attracts More Bidders

Santa Fe, NM (September 20, 2016) – The New Mexico State Land Office held its monthly oil and gas lease sale today, generating a total of \$2,464,950. September's sale introduced an online contingent to the oil & gas lease sale. The online portion was held in lieu of the traditional sealed bid portion. The online sale had active bidding that commenced one week prior to the lease sale date and closed at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the scheduled sale. The in-house oral sale was still held at the Land Office Building at 10:30 a.m. this morning.

New Mexico State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn took initiative to introduce online bidding and it proved to be a success, attracting more bidders from all over the country while generating \$1,183,550 for the trust beneficiaries – mainly the public schoolchildren of New Mexico.

A total of thirty-four tracts located in Lea, Eddy, Chaves and Roosevelt Counties were offered and sold to fifteen winning bidders. The online sale attracted bids nationwide including from Colorado, Utah, Texas, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Florida, Oklahoma, Washington, Virginia and New Mexico.

The highest online tract was won by Cimarex Energy Company for a 320-acre tract in Lea County for \$260,100 or \$813 per acre. The highest oral tract was a 320-acre tract also located in Lea County won by Doug J. Schutz for \$485,000 or \$1,516 per acre.

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. Prospective bidders must register with EnergyNet at https://www.energynet.com/govt_listing.pl and abide by the terms and conditions therein.

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