

From: [J. Kahle Becker](#)
To: [JJ Winters](#); [Mick Thomas](#); [Kourtney Romine](#); [External - Kristina Fugate](#); [James Piotrowski](#); [Mike Christian](#); [Amy Hardee](#); [James Thum](#)
Subject: Gross Response Brief and Motion for Disqualification of Hearing Officer - Docket No. CC-2023-OGR-01 -001
Date: Monday, March 06, 2023 02:58:10 PM
Attachments: [Gross Response Brief & Mot to DQ w ex.pdf](#)

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All –

Please find attached the Response Brief of Objecting Property Owners, the Gross's re: Just and Reasonable Factors as well as a Motion for Disqualification of the Hearing Officer.

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J. KAHLE BECKER (ISB # 7408)

Attorney at Law

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Boise, Idaho 83702

Phone: (208) 345-8466

Fax: (208) 906-8663

Email: kahle@kahlebeckerlaw.com

Attorney for Objecting Property Owners

Jordan A. and Dana C. Gross and Little Buddy Farm LLC

BEFORE THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

In the Matter of the Application of Snake River)	
Oil and Gas, LLC to Integrate Unleased)	Docket No. CC-2023-OGR-01 -001
Mineral Interest Owners in the Spacing Unit)	
Consisting of Section 24, Township 8 North,)	RESPONSE BRIEF AND MOTION
Range 5 West, Boise Meridian, Payette)	FOR DISQUALIFICATION
County, Idaho)	
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	

COME NOW, Objecting Property Owners, Jordan A. and Dana C. Gross and Little Buddy Farm LLC (the Gross’s) by and through their attorney of record, J. Kahle Becker, and The Idaho Department of Lands (“IDL”) and Snake River Oil and Gas (“Snake Oil”) having filed their Opening Briefs for review and utilization by the Oil and Gas Division Administrator of the Idaho Department of Lands (“Administrator”) in determining whether the terms and conditions of the integration order sought by Applicant Snake Oil in Docket No. CC2023-OGR-01-001 are “just and reasonable” as required by Idaho Code § 47-320(1), and files their Response thereto – as well as a Motion to Disqualify, as follows:

LEGAL ARGUMENT

Snake Oil has filed a brief which cites a variety of decisions from state and federal courts standing for the proposition that oil and gas integration proceedings have a historical precedent.

No one is disputing this. However, Snake Oil neglects to provide any information whatsoever as to the statutory schemes which underly the integration proceedings at issue in those non-Idaho based cases. Therefore, these cases are of no utility in support of the imposition of Snake Oil's proposed terms in these proceedings; terms which heavily favor Snake Oil's business interests.

Tellingly, Snake Oil has not explained how the other states' caselaw it relies upon comports with Idaho court precedent as to due process requirements in administrative proceedings. There is no information provided by Snake Oil as to bonding requirements, lease duration, lease terms, whether discovery is permitted, surface occupancy, impacts to private causes of action, bonus payments, or percentages and calculation of royalties. Snake Oil's brief simply seeks to steamroll the parties subject to integration with irrelevant caselaw from other states in support of its request for a regurgitation of terms utilized in prior integration orders.

The Gross's hereby submit the attached February 2020 article by Taxpayers for Common Sense which includes a survey of royalty payments by major oil and gas producing states. Tellingly, none are as low as the 1/8 (12.5%) royalty Snake Oil proposes herein. *See* Exhibit E to Application (Proposed Form of Lease) at ¶ 3 and January 23, 2023 Letter from Mike Christian at p. 2-3 ¶ 6. Most royalties in other states are in the range of 16 to 25%. To be blunt, Snake Oil is taking the citizens of Idaho (and their legislators and other elected officials who were convinced to use 1/8 when enacting I.C. 47-320(d)) for suckers. This is neither fair nor just.

With respect to the Idaho Department of Lands Opening Brief, IDL seeks to portray itself as a disinterested and neutral third party. This is inaccurate. IDL is a surface owner in the unit to be integrated due to the presence of the navigable Payette River. *See* Exhibit A to Application. IDL manages these lands in trust for the citizens of the State of Idaho.

Pursuant to the public trust doctrine, the State of Idaho owns in trust the beds and banks of navigable waters for the use and benefit of the public, including

the uses of navigation, commerce, and fisheries. *Newton v. MJK/BJK, LLC*, 167 Idaho 236, 242, 469 P.3d 23, 29 (2020). The State's ownership of the lakebed extends up to the high water mark, while a littoral (lakeside) owner on a navigable lake takes title down to the high water mark as it existed in 1890 when Idaho was admitted to the Union. [***14] *Lake CDA Invs., LLC v. Idaho Dep't of Lands*, 149 Idaho 274, 278, 233 P.3d 721, 725 (2010); *Erickson v. State*, 132 Idaho 208, 210, 970 P.2d 1, 3 (1998). *Byrd v. Idaho State Bd. of Land Comm'Rs*, 169 Idaho 922, 928, 505 P.3d 708, 714, 2022 Ida. LEXIS 22, *13-14

This means that IDL either has an existing contractual relationship with Snake Oil, or will be ordered to be integrated as a result of this hearing process. The undersigned has submitted a public records request to IDL seeking copies of any leases IDL has entered into with Snake Oil or its predecessor in interest. However, IDL just indicated that it will need an additional 10 days to respond to this request. *See* Exhibit B hereto. If those leases have already been executed and were not included in the record by the Applicant or IDL, this further heightens the concern that Idaho's government is not working to benefit its citizens but to increase the bottom line of an out of state company.

Likewise, the presence of navigable waterways traversing Applicant's proposed integration unit means that the hearing officer, who is an IDL employee, is not a disinterested party. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/richardmickthomas/> The Hearing Officer's LinkedIn Profile (Included as Exhibit C hereto) describes his job duties as follows:



Idaho Department of Lands Idaho Department of Lands

5 yrs 9 mos
5 yrs 9 mos

Division Administrator / Secretary to the Idaho Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

Full-time Full-time Jul 2017 - Present · 5 yrs 9 mos Boise, Idaho Area

- **Provide broad oversight and management of the Minerals, Navigable Waterways, and Oil & Gas Division covering 3.4 million acres of Idaho Mineral Estate and State Waterways.**
Providing policy development along with procedural and regulatory guidance.
Primary liaison between the Idaho Oil and Gas division and other state and federal agencies.
Idaho delegate to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC).
Member of the Idaho Geological Survey Advisory Board.
Hearing officer. (Emphasis added).

The use of an IDL employee as a hearing officer, who also administers state leases for minerals and navigable waterways, by IDL, in integration proceedings where IDL and the State of Idaho have a direct (and perhaps adverse) pecuniary interest to other parties named herein, erodes any notion of due process which might have existed in this already unconstitutional statutory scheme. The Gross's hereby exercise their right to disqualify the hearing officer for cause. *See* I.C. 67-5252. Presiding Officer — Disqualification.¹

CONCLUSION

The Gross's are not fundamentally opposed to gas production or forced pooling. They are however fundamentally opposed to being taken advantage of by an unjust industry drafted state statutory scheme which seeks to not only abridge their constitutional rights but pay them submarket rates for their property. As the owners of both the surface and mineral estate, the Gross' intend to reside in their home for years. Snake Oil on the other hand seeks to make a quick profit

¹ In light of the clear conflict of interest as well as the late disclosure of the conflict of interest of the Gross' prior counsel discussed in the Motion to Continue, this motion is filed pursuant to I.C. 67-5252(b).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 6th day of March 2023, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **RESPONSE BRIEF AND MOTION FOR DISQUALIFICATION** was served upon opposing counsel as follows:

Snake River Oil & Gas LLC	<u> </u> US Mail
c/o Michael Christian Hardee, Pinol & Kracke PLLC	<u> </u> Personal Delivery
1487 S. David Lane Boise ID 83705	<u> </u> Facsimile
mike@hpk.law	<u> X </u> Email
and amy@hpk.law	

Idaho Department of Lands	<u> </u> US Mail
Attn: Mick Thomas	<u> </u> Personal Delivery
300 N. 6th Street, Suite 103 P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720	<u> </u> Facsimile
e-mail: kromine@idl.idaho.gov and mthomas@idl.idaho.gov	<u> X </u> Email

Kristina Fugate	<u> </u> US Mail
Deputy Attorney General	<u> </u> Personal Delivery
PO Box 83720	<u> </u> Facsimile
Boise ID 83720-0010	<u> X </u> Email
kristina.fugate@ag.idaho.gov	

JJ Winters	<u> </u> US Mail
Deputy Attorney General	<u> </u> Personal Delivery
PO Box 83720	<u> </u> Facsimile
Boise ID 83720-0010	<u> X </u> Email
JJ.Winters@ag.idaho.gov	

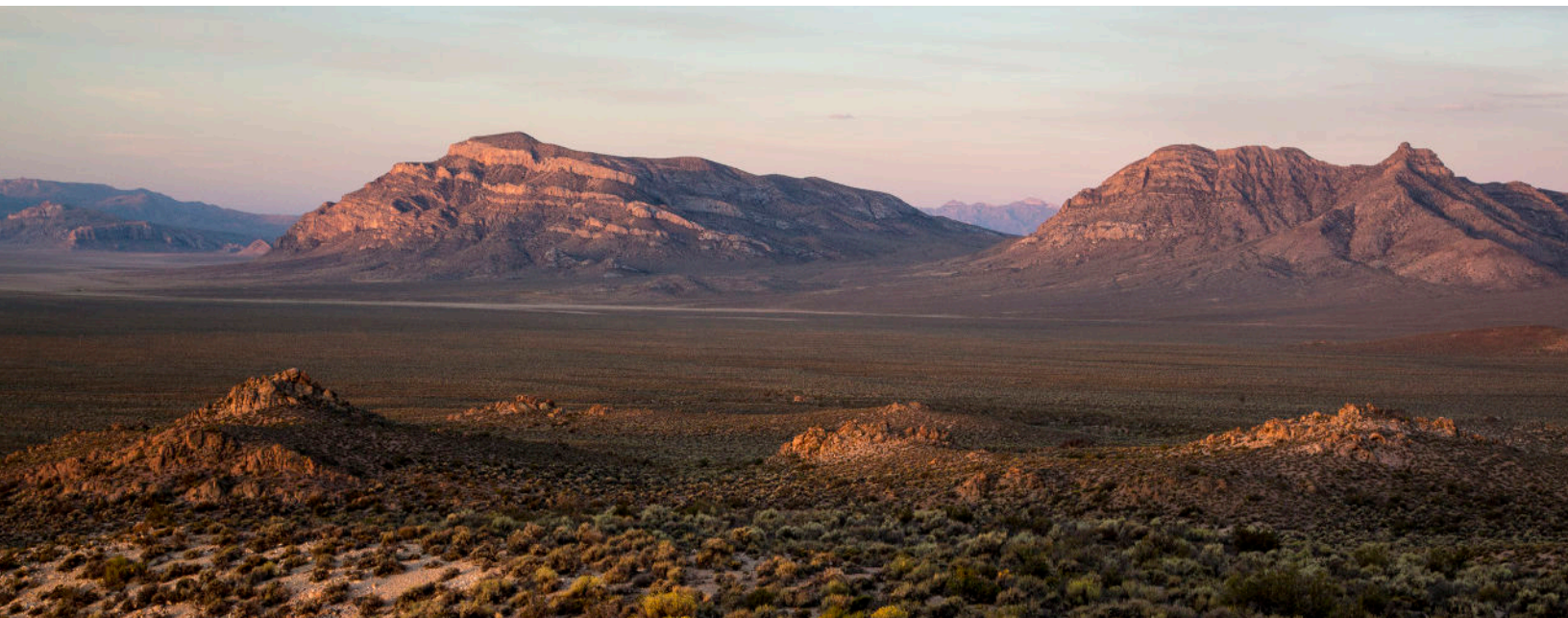
James Thum	<u> </u> US Mail
Idaho Department of Lands	<u> </u> Personal Delivery
PO Box 83720	<u> </u> Facsimile
Boise ID 83720-0050	<u> X </u> Email
jthum@idl.idaho.gov	

/s/ J. Kahle Becker
J. KAHLE BECKER
Attorney for Objecting Property Owners,
Jordan A. and Dana C. Gross and Little
Buddy Farm LLC

EXHIBIT A

February 2020

Royally Losing: Higher Royalties on State and Offshore Oil and Gas Production Reap Billions More than Drilling on Federal Lands



The federal government **lost up to \$12.4 billion in revenue from oil and gas drilling on federal lands from 2010 through 2019**, because it continues to apply a grossly outdated royalty rate set in 1920. Bringing the onshore federal royalty into the modern era, in line with rates for state and offshore production, will stem the losses and generate billions more dollars for federal and state coffers in the coming decades.

Federal lands throughout the Western United States contain vast deposits of valuable oil and gas resources. The U.S. government holds millions of acres of these lands in trust for federal taxpayers, the true landowners.

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA), 30 U.S.C. §181 et seq., established the process for leasing, managing, and developing publicly owned lands

for oil and gas exploration and development. Since the 1970s, this process and much of the U.S. mineral estate has been administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency within the Department of the Interior (DOI). In exchange for the right to drill on federal lands, the BLM requires lessees to pay a bid at auction (usually)¹, annual rent per acre of land leased, and a royalty on the value of extracted resources.

¹ The BLM allows oil and gas companies to avoid bidding for parcels of federal land at auction and acquire leases noncompetitively as soon as the day after a parcel is offered in a lease sale. This process is a relic of the leasing system in place prior to 1987. More than 2.7 million acres have been leased noncompetitively over the last decade.



Taxpayers lost up to **\$12.4 billion** in revenue 2010-2019 due to an outdated royalty rate of 12.5 percent

One hundred years ago, the MLA established the royalty rate charged for the removal and sale of oil and gas from federal lands at 12.5 percent of the resources' market value. This is still the royalty rate charged on federal lands, even as other landowners with significant oil and gas deposits, including Texas, Wyoming, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah have increased their royalty rates over the intervening decades numerous times (see chart on next page).

The rate has even changed for federal waters while remaining stagnant on federal lands. Between 2006 and 2008, the Bush Administration increased the royalty rates for offshore drilling in federal waters to 18.75 percent. According to TCS analysis of DOI data, if the onshore royalty rate had been set at 18.75 percent, in parity with offshore oil

and gas, onshore production could have generated up to \$12.4 billion in additional royalty revenue from 2010 to 2019.¹ This would have also provided a boon to western states, as half of royalty revenues collected by the federal government are returned to the state where the development takes place.²

Royalties Rate Should Have Parity

There is little evidence of industry's claims that increasing the federal onshore royalty rate would drive developers away and reduce overall revenues. Oil and gas production occurs where fossil fuel reserves are located—be that state, private, or federal land. Further there is no evidence state production dropped in response to higher royalty rates adopted for leases on state lands.³

² The Office of Natural Resource Revenue (ONRR), another sub-agency of DOI, is responsible for the collection and disbursement of royalty revenues from oil and gas produced on federal lands. Under current law, 49% of all revenues collected from resource development in the Lower 48 are returned to the state of production.

³ In interviews conducted by the Government Accountability Office, officials from both Colorado and Texas stated that raising their state royalty rates did not have a significant effect on production. (GAO-17-540)

The independent Congressional Budget Office notes that:

“Such an increase in the royalty rate [to 18.75 percent] would also reduce the profitability of exploring speculative parcels compared with parcels owned by other jurisdictions, so CBO expects that some exploration would shift away from federal lands. But the subsequent decrease in production on federal lands would in all likelihood be small or negligible, particularly if the federal royalty rate remained equal to or below the royalty rates that apply to nearby state and private lands.”

Moreover, “because the higher rate would apply only to new leases and the affected parcels would not go into production immediately, the effect on federal income would be small initially but increase over time as the number of producing parcels subject to the new rate grew.”ⁱⁱ

By continuing to retain the outdated royalty rate of 12.5 percent, the BLM has deprived federal and state taxpayers of tens of billions of dollars over the course of decades. Increasing the oil and gas royalty and reforming the royalty collection system is paramount if taxpayers are to receive a fair return for these valuable resources.

Time for Much-Needed Change

Low royalties on oil and natural gas produced on federal lands have deprived the federal treasury

Leasing Jurisdiction	Oil & Gas Royalty Rate ⁴
California	Negotiated lease-by-lease, but generally no less than 16.67 percent ⁱⁱⁱ
Colorado	20 percent ^{iv}
Montana	16.67 percent ^v
New Mexico	18.75-20 percent ^{vi}
North Dakota	16.67 or 18.75 percent depending on the county ^{vii}
Oklahoma	18.75 percent ^{viii}
Texas	20-25 percent ^{ix}
Utah	16.67 percent ^x
Wyoming	16.67 percent ^{xi}
Private Lands	Generally, 12.5-25 percent ^{xii}
Federal Lands	12.5 percent, sometimes less ^{xiii}

of billions of dollars. Congress has the power to reform oil and gas royalty collection policies that the BLM has been unable or unwilling to do on its own.

On the 100th anniversary of the MLA, we call on policymakers to stand up for taxpayers and bring the federal oil and gas system into the modern era by increasing the royalty rate from 12.5 to 18.75 percent, in line with the rate currently charged for offshore production.



⁴ The prevailing rate state land management agencies have for new oil and gas leases. Rates for legacy leases on state lands may differ.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Estimate calculated from actual royalties collected from oil, gas, and natural gas liquids (NGL) production from federal, onshore leases reported by the Office of Natural Resources Revenue. The estimate captures additional potential royalty revenues had an 18.75% rate been in place for all BLM-managed leases using the sales value of resources net of transportation and processing deductions. The figure reflects a maximum, recognizing the potential for some, though likely minimal, deterred federal production under the alternative scenario of an 18.75% rate set decades ago. It also does not attempt to forecast increases in revenue from legislation setting an 18.75% rate prospectively.

ⁱⁱ Congressional Budget Office, “Options for Increasing Federal Income From Crude Oil and Natural Gas on Federal Lands,” April 2018. https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/114th-congress-2015-2016/reports/51421-oil_and_gas_options-OneCol-3.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ Ca. Pub. Res. Code § 6827

^{iv} Government Accountability Office, “Raising Federal Rates Could Decrease Production on Federal Lands but Increase Federal Revenue,” June 2017. <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-17-540.pdf>; Some parcels not sold with the 20% rate are offered in subsequent sales with an 18.75% rate. **Recent reports** from the Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners indicate companies have been bidding on leases with 20% rates rather than wait for them to be re-offered with an 18.75% rate: 91 of the 102 tracts offered between August 2017 and May 2018 were sold on first offer; just 3 of 9 tracts re-offered sold.

^v Ibid

^{vi} Ibid; The New Mexico State Land Office offered all parcels for lease with a 18.75 or 20% royalty rate in the last two years. In prior years, some parcels were leased with a 12.5-16.67% rate.

^{vii} Ibid

^{viii} Congressional Budget Office, “Options for Increasing Federal Income From Crude Oil and Natural Gas on Federal Lands,” April 2018. https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/114th-congress-2015-2016/reports/51421-oil_and_gas_options-OneCol-3.pdf

^{ix} Ibid

^x Government Accountability Office, “Raising Federal Rates Could Decrease Production on Federal Lands but Increase Federal Revenue,” June 2017. <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-17-540.pdf>; For some leases, the royalty is set at 12.5 percent if approved by the Director of the Utah Trust Lands Administration.

^{xi} Ibid; For parcels offered but unsold in a previous sale, the rate is set at 12.5 percent.

^{xii} Ibid

^{xiii} 30 USC §226



PHOTO CREDITS

- p. 1 Basin and Range National Monument, Nevada. Source: BLM
- p. 2 Pump jack on Federal Land in Wyoming. Source: BLM.
- p. 3 Federal Oil and Gas Production in California. Source: BLM.
- p. 4 Oil Rig in Montana. © Lindsey, via Flickr.



EXHIBIT B

Public Records Request No. 2023-0110; 10-day notice

Public Records Request <public_records_request@idl.idaho.gov>

Mon 3/6/2023 1:37 PM

To: J. Kahle Becker <kahle@kahlebeckerlaw.com>

Good afternoon –

On March 6, 2023, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) received a public records request as follows:

Under the Idaho Public Records Act § 74-101 et seq., I am requesting copies of all leases between the State of Idaho, the Land Board and/or the Idaho Department of Lands and Snake River Oil and Gas or its predecessor in interest, Alta Mesa. This request is meant to seek leases or other documents memorializing any agreement for the extraction of oil, gas, or other hydrocarbons from lands or strata beneath either navigable rivers or endowment lands.

The Idaho Public Records Act requires a response time within three business days. If producing the records I am requesting will take longer than three days, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law. If there is any charge associated with completing my request, please contact me so that I can arrange payment.

Pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-103(1), IDL requires ten (10) working days to research your request.

Additionally, in accordance with Idaho Code § 74-102(10)(12), to compensate for materials and time associated with the fulfillment of this request you may be charged fees if staff time exceeds two (2) hours and/or 100 pages. IDL staff will work to estimate this potential cost and will notify you as soon as possible if there will be fees involved.

Regards,



Kellie LaBonte

PRR Coordinator

Idaho Department of Lands

300 N. 6th Street, Ste 103

Boise, ID 83702

Office: (208) 334-0214

Email: public_records_request@idl.idaho.gov

<https://www.idl.idaho.gov>

From: IDL Public Records Request <public_records_request@idl.idaho.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 12:06 PM

To: Public Records Request <public_records_request@idl.idaho.gov>

Subject: New Public Records Request

Full Name: Kahle Becker
Organization: J. Kahle Becker Attorney at Law
Email: kahle@kahlebeckerlaw.com
Phone Number: 208-345-8466
Mailing Address: 223 N. 6th St., Ste. 325
City: Boise
State: Idaho
Zip Code: 83702
Topic: Leases, Minerals
Records Requested: Dear Idaho Department of Lands:

Under the Idaho Public Records Act § 74-101 et seq., I am requesting copies of all leases between the State of Idaho, the Land Board and/or the Idaho Department of Lands and Snake River Oil and Gas or its predecessor in interest, Alta Mesa. This request is meant to seek leases or other documents memorializing any agreement for the extraction of oil, gas, or other hydrocarbons from lands or strata beneath either navigable rivers or endowment lands.

The Idaho Public Records Act requires a response time within three business days. If producing the records I am requesting will take longer than three days, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law. If there is any charge associated with completing my request, please contact me so that I can arrange payment.

I look forward to receiving the information I have requested.

Sincerely,

J. Kahle Becker

Date: March 6, 2023

Time: 12:05 pm

Page URL: <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/public-records-request/>

User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/110.0.0.0 Safari/537.36

Remote IP: 160.2.31.220

Powered by: Elementor

EXHIBIT C



Home



My Network



Jobs



Messaging 18



Notifications 25

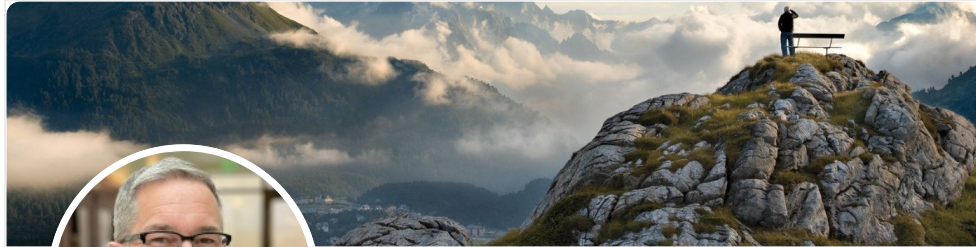


Me





Work

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Richard "Mick" Thomas · 2nd

Division Administrator, Idaho Department of Lands

-  Idaho Department of Lands
-  Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

Boise Metropolitan Area · [Contact info](#)

500+ connections



Dan Raiha, Jane Gordon, and 1 other mutual connection

Connect

[Message](#)

[More](#)

About

Knowledgeable geologist and administrator with experience in policy, state and federal regulations, data analytics and team management.

Focused on policy development, regulatory guidance and the NEPA process.

Activity

841 followers

Richard "Mick" Thomas reposted this • 1w

The trend globally seems to be two fold - increase supply of ethical and inexpensive supplies of cobalt, while reducing the overall need. Could this eventually remove



Cobalt, a crucial battery material, is suddenly superabundant

economist.com • 2 min read



4

2 comments

Richard "Mick" Thomas reposted this • 1mo



Nuclear energy is the most efficient and safest energy source we have with a very low environmental impact. If you are talking energy potential in the future, but are not considering nuclear, you're don't need to be at



9

Show all activity →

Experience



Idaho Department of Lands

5 yrs 9 mos

Division Administrator / Secretary to the Idaho Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

Full-time

Jul 2017 - Present · 5 yrs 9 mos

Boise, Idaho Area

Provide broad oversight and management of the Minerals, Navigable Waterways, and Oil & Gas Division covering 3.4 million acres of Idaho Mineral Estate and State Waterways.

Skills: NEPA, Geology, Energy
Providing policy development along with procedural and regulatory guidance.

Idaho Geological Survey Advisory Board
Member of the Idaho Geological Survey Advisory Board and other state and federal agencies.

Idaho delegate to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC).
Sep 2019 - Present · 3 yrs 7 mos

Member of the Idaho Geological Survey Advisory Board.

Moscow, Idaho
Hearing officer.

...see more

Appointed by the Idaho Board of Land Commissioners to represent the Land Board on the IGS Advisory Committee. The committee is comprised of ten members.

Skills: Geology



IOGCC CRO Chair

...see more

Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission · Part-time

Oct 2018 - Nov 2020 · 2 yrs 2 mos

North America · Hybrid

Chairman of the Council of Regulatory Officials. The CRO meets biannually to discuss the status of the industry and topics impacting our individual states and provinces.

Skills: Geology · Energy



Senior Geologist / Head of Mineral Resources Section

State of Hawaii

2016 - 2017 · 1 yr

Honolulu, Hawaii

Plan, direct and administer activities of the section for the regulation of geothermal activities throughout the islands. This includes resources assessment, environmental monitoring, drilling operations, protection of the resource and public safety.

Skills: NEPA · Geology

Address hazards from rockfall or slope movement on lands under DLNR



Geologist - Team Lead

Devon Energy

2014 - 2016 · 2 yrs

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Area

Mentored junior geologists in all aspects of well execution and analysis.

Ensured cross-discipline functionality with regulatory, drilling, analytics and geoscience. Built interdisciplinary project involvement with a strong focus

Skills: Geology · Energy

Consultant Geologist geosteering, subsurface mapping and well supervision regarding drilling operations and vendor management. Focused on entire life cycle of Stack Play in the Mid-Centime beginning with selecting target formations, forecasting net pay and total pay thickness and finally developing well execution projects for carbonate and clastic

Worked as a Wellsite geologist responsible for geosteering and mud-logging wells. Worked a fly in/fly out 12 hours on/off schedule.

Actively monitored down hole gas and analyzed well-bore cuttings to give company geologists a real-time description of well-bore location. Promoted

show all experiences

to lead wellsite geologist and began training other geologists in best

Education



Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Masters of Science, Geology

Activities and societies: Founder of IUPUI Imperial Barrel Awards Program Team, Graduate Student Council, Indiana University Geologic Field Station Alumni AAPG Student Chapter Founder ExxonMobil Basin Analysis Short Course, ExxonMobil Permian Basin Field Course

Skills: Geology, Hydrogeology, Inorganic Geochemistry, 3-D modelling, Core analysis, Clay Mineralogy, Data Analysis Tech In Geoscience, Seismic Analysis and



Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Bachelor's degree

Calculus I&II, Sequence Stratigraphy, Structural Geology, IU Field Camp Alumni, Economic Geology, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Environmental Geology, Physics
Skills: Geology



Stanford University

Reservoir Geomechanics

2016 - 2016

Grade: Certificate

Show all 4 education →

Licenses & certifications

GHS / Globally Harmonized System

PEC

Issued May 2013

Credential ID PEC730000472

H2S (Hydrogen Sulfide) Training

Safety Unlimited, INC.

Issued May 2013

Credential ID 1305176182562

Safety Awareness Orientation

PEC / SafeGulf
Issued May 2013
Credential ID PEC100306304

[Show all 6 licenses & certifications →](#)

Volunteering

Team Mentor - Imperial Barrel Award

AAPG
Science and Technology

Enabling students to prepare for the energy industry



Cyber Patriot Mentor and Team Organizer

Civil Air Patrol
Science and Technology

Enjoyed the role of cyber security mentor for a team of CAP students.

Team prepared and competed in a mock security breach with increasing levels of difficulty over a given time period. Our success in stopping the

Skills

NEPA

2 experiences across Idaho Department of Lands and 1 other company

Geology

6 experiences across Idaho Department of Lands and 4 other companies



3 educational experiences at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

Team Mentor - Imperial Barrel Award

[Show all 7 details →](#)

Drilling

Endorsed by 8 colleagues at Devon Energy

20 endorsements

Show all 34 skills →

Recommendations

Received

Given



Buddy Price · 3rd

Geologist at Devon Energy

June 21, 2016, Buddy worked with Richard "Mick" on the same team

Mick is exceptional execution geologist that I was lucky enough to work with. His experience in the field as well as the office makes him an excellent co-worker who understands all aspects of drilling a well. While he is very proficient at technical roles, he is better at being a teammate. He is always willing to lend a hand and assist in anything that is needed. His personality



Alex Lamb · 3rd

Senior Machine Learning Engineer at Autodesk

March 9, 2016, Alex worked with Richard "Mick" on the same team

Mick is an asset to any team. His experience in operational execution, and ability to engage other team members and disciplines, allows him to tackle a diverse set of problems. The focus Mick brings gets the day-to-day projects finished while keeping long-term goals in mind. From the technical side of geologic mapping, data analysis, and integration projects to the



Dilip Vyas · 3rd

Mick brings a great set of skills while demonstrating integrity and a personable character. I recommend him to any team that needs things done and done well. December 2, 2009, Dilip worked with Richard "Mick" but they were at different companies

Mick is hard worker who always gives more than his best. He follows through until the job is finished. He is very dependable and very detail oriented. Very pleasant and patient to work with.

Publications

Geochemical impact of super-critical CO₂ injection into the St. Peter Sandstone Formation within the Illinois Basin

Indiana University


Show publication 

Masters Thesis

Courses


AAPG Well Log Analysis: Asquith & Krygowski

CEU Seminar

 Associated with Devon Energy

AAPG Woodford Shale Forum

CEU Seminar

 Associated with Devon Energy

Advanced Optical Mineralogy

GEOL 690



Associated with Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Show all 35 courses →

Projects

Geothermal prospects within the central United States


Jan 2016 - Present

Evaluate low-temp geothermal potential of pressurized deep aquifers in the mid-continental U.S.

Stage one is complete and field team is assembled. Currently in stage two in order to secure field test site.

Geochemical Analysis of the St. Peter Sandstone in determining capability for SWD wells

Sep 2015 - Present

 Associated with Devon Energy

Show project 

Regional overview of St. Peter as repository for SWD. NE U.S. Oil and gas production struggles to dispose of waste water in an already saturated region. The St. Peter is an attractive formation for large scale storage and disposal of waste water from O&G exploration and production.



Microbiological impact of CO2 floods to enhance oil recovery in the Sugar Creek Field, Western KY.

Oct 2010 - Present



Associated with Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

Team used bio marker samples from pilot wells to map oil migration throughout a ~500 acre test field subjected to a CO2 flood. Target goal was to assess how CO2 flooding impacted production as well as forecasting migration within the field. Test was co-sponsored by the Kentucky Geological Survey →

Honors & awards

Speaker: Eastern Sectional AAPG 2015

Issued by AAPG · Sep 2015



Associated with Devon Energy

Class II disposal well prospecting. Northern Illinois:
Geochemical analysis of the St. Peter Sandstone formation in determining capability for SWD wells.

Presidential Management Fellow - Semi-Finalist

<http://esaapg2015.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ESAAPG-2015-Circular-Issued-by-Office-of-the-White-House-Nov-2013-2015.pdf>



Associated with Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

One of 142 S.T.E.M. candidates selected out of a pool of over 7000 graduate students. Ultimately declined invitation.

Imperial Barrel Award Regional Ranking

Issued by AAPG · Mar 2012



Associated with Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

Languages

English

Native or bilingual proficiency

Organizations

AAPG

Member



Associated with Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

Member, IBA team founder and member.

GSA

Member



Associated with Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

OCGS / Oklahoma City Geological Society

member



Associated with Devon Energy

Interests

Companies

Groups

Schools



Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

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