

# News Release



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## IPAMS Supports BLM Utah Lease Sale

*Federal lands key to energy security, reducing greenhouse gas emissions  
Industry denounces threats, lawsuits by environmental groups*

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) today expressed support for the Utah Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) lease sale scheduled for tomorrow, December 19.

"The BLM's decision to lease federal lands for the responsible development of clean, affordable, domestic natural gas is an essential step in helping to meet our nation's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy security," said Kathleen Sgamma, IPAMS Director of Government Affairs.

Tomorrow's auction comes after the BLM spent seven long years updating the Resource Management Plans (RMP) in an open and public process in which all stakeholders, including the State, local governments, citizens' groups, environmental groups, the National Park Service, and others, had multiple opportunities to comment. No new acreage was opened to natural gas and oil leasing that was not available before the new RMPs, and no acreage has fewer restrictions than before.

Natural gas production in Utah will become even more important as President-elect Barack Obama seeks to carry out his campaign promises of making our nation less dependent on foreign sources of energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Ninety-seven percent of the natural gas consumed in the U.S. is produced in North America (27 percent of it in the Rockies), and since it emits just over half the CO<sub>2</sub> of coal, we will need even more natural gas in order to reduce our carbon footprint in coming years.

"This lease sale is a step in the right direction to meeting our energy challenges. Sadly, some have attempted to block this auction and are encouraging the incoming Obama administration to reverse the lease decisions. Those who refuse to acknowledge a balanced, multiple-use approach to public lands management are encouraging policies counterproductive to the incoming Administration's dual goals of reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy security."

"The purchase of a lease is not a green light to drill. A lease is only the first step in a long, expensive process, which can take many years with no guarantee of production. Those protesting the sale often forget that natural gas and oil activity in Utah occupies much less than 1% of public land. With current technology and industry practices, producers are able to develop vital energy resources now, and reclaim the land to its original condition soon afterwards."

**Representatives from IPAMS will be on hand at tomorrow's lease sale to answer questions and provide industry comment.**

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### About IPAMS

*The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent natural gas and oil producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants committed to environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at [www.ipams.org](http://www.ipams.org).*