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News Release

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

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Indian Mineral Owners Invited to Consult on Oil Pricing *Meeting scheduled October 29 in New Town, ND*

The Department of the Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) will host a meeting Tuesday, Oct. 29, in New Town, ND, to solicit comments from individual American Indian mineral owners and Tribal representatives on a recommendation for calculating "major portion pricing" for oil produced on Indian leases.

The Oct. 29 meeting with individual mineral owners is scheduled from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the New Town Civic Center, 103 Soo Place, New Town, ND. The tribal meeting will take place later that day.

ONRR Director Greg Gould encouraged Indian royalty owners to attend the consultation meeting. "The Department and ONRR value the ideas that Indian mineral owners may have to improve the proposal now being considered. We also want to hear any concerns that royalty owners may have so that we can make the best informed decision possible to protect their royalty interest."

The Department of the Interior and ONRR established an Indian Oil Valuation Negotiated Rulemaking Committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) in late 2011 to advise the Office of Natural Resources Revenue on how to perform the major portion pricing calculation for oil produced from Indian leases. Most Indian leases contain a major portion provision requiring value on the highest price paid for a major portion of production from the field.

In September 2013, the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee reached agreement on a recommendation for implementing major portion pricing for oil produced from Indian leases. The recommendation applies to oil produced on both Tribal lands and allotted lands.

Consistent with its Tribal Consultation Policy, ONRR scheduled the Oct. 29 consultation in New Town to explain the Committee's recommendation and solicit comments from individual Indian mineral owners and tribal representatives, which will be considered before proposed draft regulations are written and published in the Federal Register.

Additional consultation meetings are also planned for tribal representatives and allotted land owners in other areas of the country.

Indian mineral owners are invited to attend the meeting regardless of where their allotment is located. For those unable to attend the Oct. 29 meeting, they may submit comments to the ONRR Trust Liaison Officer at: onrrtriballiaisonofficer@onrr.gov.

Alternatively, Indian mineral owners may offer comments once ONRR publishes a proposed rule in the Federal Register.

Those seeking additional information may contact Tom Piccirilli at 1-800-982-3226.

ONRR