

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Richard Steiner** <richard.g.steiner@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 2:18 PM

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: URGENT Complaint re: BLM Alaska intent to illegally accept bids from State of Alaska for ANWR coastal plain oil leases

To: Hotline, OIG <OIG_Hotline@doioig.gov>

Dear OIG,

Thanks! As this is a matter of considerable public interest across the nation, and somewhat urgent, we really appreciate your prompt attention to the complaint.

The broad issues that must be resolved are whether federal law (Minerals Leasing Act, etc.) permits governments to qualify as "responsible qualified bidders" for federal mineral leases, whether the BLM Alaska Detailed Statement of Sale for the ANWR coastal plain leases conforms with federal law on this matter, and whether the State of Alaska through its instrument AIDEA thus qualifies as a bidder.

Thanks, and we will await your determination.

Respectfully,

Rick Steiner
Anchorage, Alaska

On Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 1:57 PM Hotline, OIG <OIG_Hotline@doioig.gov> wrote:

OIG has received your voicemail, emails and complaint. The allegations will be assigned to an investigator or agent ASAP. Thank you.

Intake Management Unit

From: Richard Steiner <richard.g.steiner@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 3:56 PM

To: Hotline, OIG <OIG_Hotline@doioig.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: URGENT Complaint re: BLM Alaska intent to illegally accept bids from State of Alaska for ANWR coastal plain oil leases

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Dear DOI OIG,

In addition to my urgent complaint re: this matter, **I ask that you immediately direct BLM Alaska to hold any ANWR drilling bids from government entities in abeyance at its bid opening Jan 6, unless and until the legality of such is clarified/confirmed by the OIG.**

I look forward to your prompt response.

Regards,

Rick Steiner
Anchorage

On Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 10:35 AM Richard Steiner <richard.g.steiner@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear DOI OIG,

I just now filed the URGENT complaint online (**E004706**), but wanted to follow up in an email here. Also attached are some of the relevant documents.

As the lease bidding is open from Dec 21-Dec 31 2020, and AIDEA is meeting tomorrow to authorize its staff to bid up to \$20 million on behalf of the State of Alaska on these tracts, and the BLM will open all bids on Jan. 6, 2021, I ask that the DOI OIG instruct BLM Alaska to decline any such bids from any governmental entity, such as the State of Alaska/AIDEA, as they fall outside of the letter and intent of the Mineral Leasing Act and BLM's Detailed Statement of Sale (attached).

The intent of the MLA and federal policy is to make these mineral leases available to the private sector, not another governmental entity. Thus, any bids BLM receives from the State of Alaska in response to this solicitation must be declined.

I look forward to hearing from you on this **urgent matter**.

Regards,

Rick Steiner, Professor
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