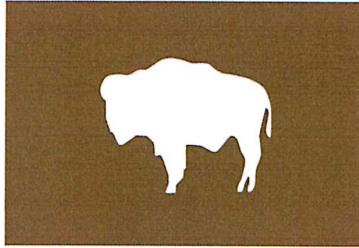


WYOMING OFFICE OF STATE LANDS AND INVESTMENTS

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MATTHEW H. MEAD
Governor

BRIDGET HILL
Director

August 31, 2018

Ronald Ericsson
2U Ranch LLC
426 Lonesome County Road
Alzada, MT 59311

Re: State Bentonite Lease #0-42804

Dear Mr. Ericsson,

I have been copied on the correspondence between you and Mr. Kyle Wendtland regarding the ownership of the mineral estate covered by State Bentonite Lease #0-42804. Inasmuch as the management and leasing of those minerals falls within the authority of my office as the administrative arm of the Board of Land Commissioners, I wanted to make you aware that I too have concluded that the minerals covered by the lease are owned by the State of Wyoming.

The surface and mineral estate of the lands in question were acquired by the State through a Sheriff's Foreclosure Deed in 1933. The State then sold the surface estate in 1939 but reserved to itself the mineral estate. It is our position that the State has not conveyed that mineral estate to another entity. Indeed, we have found no documentation in either our records or the Crook County public records that shows a conveyance of the mineral estate after 1939.

The Crook County records do include the probate items you have indicated. However, there is no record of a conveyance of the mineral estate from the State to anyone else such that the mineral estate could be conveyed through a probate matter. Thus, it is our position that the State continues to own the mineral estate and it would be our intention to defend our ownership if the need arises.

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Ronald Ericsson
August 31, 2018
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Given the voluminous correspondence on this matter and your continued assertion that the State does not own the minerals in question, I wanted to ensure that you were aware of my office's position on the matter.

Sincerely,



Bridget Hill, Director
Office of State Lands and Investments

CC: Kyle Wendtland