

(Revised Federal regulations are impacting the energy industry and Utah's wide open spaces.)

Revised Federal Regulations Impact Utah's Energy Industry

The Salt Lake City Newspaper *Deseret News* carried an article on May 27 by Geoff Liesik concerning Deputy Interior Secretary David Hayes public town hall meeting in Vernal, Utah, involving a decision by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to cancel 77 oil and gas leases in Utah. The meeting was held in the heart of the state's energy region.



"We know that the withdrawal of these leases has been an unsettling event," Hayes told the audience of nearly 800 people at an emotionally charged meeting at the Western Park Convention Center in Vernal.

Hayes was in the Uintah Basin for a "listening session" with local leaders and the community. The trip was part of an agreement between Secretary Ken Salazar and Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah, to review the secretary's cancellation of 77 oil and gas leases auctioned off by the Bureau of Land Management in December. The leases are the subject of several pending lawsuits in federal court.

This area is in the heart of Newfield's Monument Butte operations.

"This meeting is an example of how federal regulations can very dramatically impact a local areas economic climate," said Bruce Stallsworth, Newfield Manager of Government Relations who attended the meeting with other Newfield representatives. "The impact to our operations from the cancellation of these particular leases is very minimal. However, the message to our industry is not positive. This is a reminder that each of us has to keep informed and stay alert to government policy action."



The article: *Utahns Speak Out Over Oil Leases* can be viewed in its entirety at:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/print/705306746/Utahns-speak-out-over-oil-leases.html>

