



Date: March 22, 2006  
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**BILLINGS** – The Bureau of Land Management will host two listening sessions Monday in Miles City to hear issues related to federal minerals that underlie non-federal surface, commonly called split estate lands.

Both sessions will be held in room 106 of the Miles Community College, 2715 Dickinson St. in Miles City. The sessions will run from 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m.

“The BLM is interested in hearing recommendations for ways to update its policies and procedures for managing federal oil and natural gas resources in split estate,” said Deputy BLM Director Jim Hughes. “Our goal is to ensure reasonable access to the energy supplies that meet the nation’s growing needs while minimizing the impact on privately owned surface.”

Miles City is one of four locations across the West where similar sessions have been held. Sessions are also scheduled for Washington, D.C. The meetings are the result of one of the provisions of the Energy Act of 2005 that directed a review the laws, regulations, policies and procedures used in split estate situations.

Each listening session will begin with an overview of the split estate provisions of the Energy Policy Act and current split estate guidelines. Participants who request to speak will then be provided a set amount of time to provide their recommendations.

Background information on split estate issues and preliminary drafts of a report to Congress are available on the BLM Split Estate website: [www.blm.gov/bmp](http://www.blm.gov/bmp). Those not able to attend one of the listening sessions may submit comments by e-mail by April 1, 2006, to: [splitestate@blm.gov](mailto:splitestate@blm.gov).

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