

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ELOUISE PEPION COBELL, et al., )  
 )  
 Plaintiffs, )  
 )  
 v. )  
 )  
 GALE NORTON, Secretary of the Interior, et al., )  
 )  
 Defendants. )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

Case No. 1:96CV01285  
(Judge Lamberth)

**NOTICE OF FILING**

Defendants in the above-entitled action give Notice of Filing of correspondence received today from individual Indian land owners addressed to the Solicitor's Office of the Department of the Interior inquiring about the suspension of a pending sale of their land. Identifying information within the letter has been removed from this filing but can be provided to the Court under seal if so requested.

Dated: September 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT D. McCALLUM, JR.  
Associate Attorney General  
PETER D. KEISLER  
Assistant Attorney General  
STUART E. SCHIFFER  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
J. CHRISTOPHER KOHN  
Director  
SANDRA P. SPOONER  
D.C. Bar No. 261495  
Deputy Director

/s/ Michael J. Quinn  
JOHN T. STEMPLEWICZ  
Senior Trial Counsel  
MICHAEL J. QUINN  
D.C. Bar. No. 401376  
Trial Attorney  
Commercial Litigation Branch  
Civil Division  
P.O. Box 875  
Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0875  
(202) 514-7194 (phone)  
(202) 514-9163 (fax)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on September 2, 2004 the foregoing *Notice of Filing* was served by Electronic Case Filing, and on the following who is not registered for Electronic Case Filing, by facsimile:

Earl Old Person (*Pro se*)  
Blackfeet Tribe  
P.O. Box 850  
Browning, MT 59417  
Fax (406) 338-7530

/s/ Kevin P. Kingston  
Kevin P. Kingston

September 2, 2004

Ms. Janet Goodwin, Senior Attorney  
Office of the Solicitor  
Division of Indian Affairs  
Mail Stop 6456  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Land Sale Transactions Pursuant to 25 CFR 152; Temporary Restraining Order

Dear Ms. Goodwin:

We have been advised of the temporary restraining order issued by Judge Lamberth in *Cobell v. Norton*, Civ. 1:96CV012585 (D.D.C.). We have three negotiated land sales that were submitted to the Southern Plains Regional Office (SPRO) on August 10, 2004 on [REDACTED]

We have negotiated to sell our surface rights with the [REDACTED]. We were advised of the appraisal amount by the Tribe's Realty Department. As a result of our face-to-face meeting to negotiate with the Tribe, we agreed to sell at a much higher price than the appraised value. Besides the appraisal, we obtained maps of all three tracts of land and were advised of any leases, and all the other information we needed about the property we were to sell. We also received individual letters that stated the monetary amount we would receive according to our undivided interests in the properties. I feel that due to our negotiations with the Tribe's Executive Committee, our settlement for these properties are more than fair.

The postponement of the approval by the temporary restraining order creates a financial hardship for all the landowners on these tracts. I for one am [REDACTED] years old. When these land sales are approved I will get over [REDACTED] dollars. I need to pay for medications, bills, and repairs to my home. I also need to buy a walker to assist me in getting around. I am experiencing knee problems and I could use this money for health reasons.

This is a trust-to-trust conveyance between we, the landowners, and our Tribe. We feel that it is necessary to keep the land in trust and since none of us live on our make use of the properties, we want to sell and I do not want this to take a long time because I am elderly on a fixed income.

I am asking that these land sales be reviewed and approved immediately.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

September 2, 2004

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The postponement of the approval by the temporary restraining order creates a financial hardship for all the landowners on these tracts. I submitted a letter dated [REDACTED], [REDACTED] which informed him of [REDACTED], having surgery and I wished to help pay for medical expenses. After the casework was submitted to SPRO, I am no longer working and am undergoing tests for a heart problem. I have submitted copies for your review with [REDACTED] permission. I really need the money from the land sales to pay for medical bills and medications. This is a trust-to-trust conveyance between we, the landowners, and our Tribe. We feel that it is necessary to keep the land in trust and since none of us live on our make use of the properties, we want to sell.

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[REDACTED]

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The postponement of the approval by the temporary restraining order creates a financial hardship for all the landowners on these tracts. Personally, I need the [REDACTED] that would pay for medications that I cannot afford. I need to get caught up on my bills especially my rent, or I could lose my house I am buying.

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Sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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