

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 an additional letter received September 3, 2004, 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 8, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on September 8, 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.). [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 care for my two grandchildren and for my dad. My dad is elderly and has medical problems. I need the money to pay for all bills associated with the care of these individuals and Medicare does not pay for all medical expenses and medications. I also planned to use the money to make my car payments. I do not want to lose my car and house.

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.

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

[REDACTED]