EMAILED CERTIFIED

NOTE: This disposition is nonprecedential.

United States Department of the Interior
Office of Hearings and Appeals
Interior Board of Land Appeals
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March 29, 2016

IBLA 2015-208	)	WYW-162600
	)	
JC ENERGY, LLC	)	Onshore Oil and Gas
	)	
	)	Appeal Dismissed as Moot

ORDER

On July 8, 2015, appellant filed a notice of appeal from a decision issued by the Wyoming State Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In its decision, the agency did not permit Top Brass Oil Properties, LLC to assign Federal oil and gas lease WYW-162600 to appellant because the lease purportedly expired on March 31, 2015. Lease expiration occurred because the Rawlins Field Office, BLM, denied both Top Brass Oil Properties, LLC's and appellant's respective requests for suspension of operations and production (SOOP) for the lease. Appellant timely requested State Director Review (SDR) of BLM's SOOP denial.

By Order dated July 14, 2016, the Board suspended appellant's appeal until the State Director issued a decision regarding the SOOP request because a State Director decision ruling in appellant's favor would resolve the issue presented in this appeal.

On February 26, 2016, the State Director determined that BLM erroneously denied appellant's SOOP request. The State Director rescinded the lease termination and remanded the matter back to BLM so that it could grant the SOOP request and "consider the assignment (and transfer) request." SDR Decision at 5. To date, neither appellant nor BLM have moved to dismiss this matter from the Board's docket.

Because the decision on appeal became moot when the State Director remanded the matter back to BLM to consider appellant's assignment request, we dismiss the appeal.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority delegated to the Board of Land Appeals by the Secretary of the Interior, 43 C.F.R. § 4.1, the appeal is dismissed as moot.

/s/
Eileen G. Jones
Chief Administrative Judge

I concur:

/s/
James F. Roberts
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge