

Appeal from a decision of the Alaska State Office, Bureau of Land Management, rejecting noncompetitive oil and gas lease offer AA-53586.

Affirmed.

1. Oil and Gas Leases: Description of Land--Oil and Gas Leases: Applications: Description

An oil and gas lease offer for surveyed land or land within a protracted survey must describe the land by legal subdivision, section, township, and range. An offer which fails to describe the land by section is defective and, therefore, properly rejected.

APPEARANCES: Isabelle C. Chang, pro se.

OPINION BY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE HARRIS

Isabelle C. Chang has appealed a decision of the Alaska State Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), dated June 18, 1984, rejecting her noncompetitive oil and gas lease offer AA-53586. On May 8, 1984, Chang filed with BLM an offer to lease 640 acres contained in T. 14 N., R. 3 W., Copper River Meridian, Alaska, and 640 acres in T. 11 N., R. 5 W., Copper River Meridian, Alaska. BLM rejected appellant's offer because "[n]o section numbers appear in the land description on the offer to lease." BLM relied upon Daniel H. Cruz, A-28524 (Feb. 28, 1961), and W. H. Burnett, A-28037 (Aug. 20, 1959), as a basis for rejecting appellant's offer.

On appeal appellant merely states, "I have no idea what section numbers to provide when I am completely ignorant of the lay of the land? All I would like is to acquire as much flat land as possible."

[1] It is well established that an oil and gas lease offer for surveyed land or land within a protracted survey must describe the land by legal subdivision, section, township, and range. 43 CFR 3111.2-1(a); Helen G. Haggard, 79 IBLA 320, 321 (1984); James M. Chudnow, 77 IBLA 77, 78 (1983); James M. Chudnow, 68 IBLA 228, 229 (1982). An offer which does not comply with this requirement is defective and, therefore, properly rejected. Helen G. Haggard, supra at 322; Milan S. Papulak, 63 IBLA 16 (1982). If the

land description is not sufficient on its face, the offer is defective. William B. Rawlins, 76 IBLA 165, 166 (1983). See Susan K. Hankins, 18 IBLA 240 (1974).

The purpose of the requirement is to provide a description which is at least sufficient on its face to delimit the lands applied for. James M. Chudnow, 82 IBLA 95, 96 (1984); Milan S. Papulak, supra at 17; Charles J. Babington, 71 I.D. 110, 113 (1964). It is immaterial whether errors in descriptions are due to inadvertence or even a typographical slip. William B. Rawlins, supra at 166. In this case appellant was ignorant of the description requirement. BLM properly rejected the offer.

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to the Board of Land Appeals by the Secretary of the Interior, 43 CFR 4.1, the decision appealed from is affirmed.

Bruce R. Harris
Administrative Judge

We concur:

C. Randall Grant, Jr.
Administrative Judge

Wm. Philip Horton
Chief Administrative Judge

