



## INTERIOR BOARD OF INDIAN APPEALS

Hall-Houston Oil Company, Cornerstone Energy Corporation, and Ridgewood Energy Corporation v. Western Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

40 IBIA 33 (06/03/2004)

Related Board case:  
42 IBIA 227



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS  
INTERIOR BOARD OF INDIAN APPEALS  
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HALL-HOUSTON OIL COMPANY, : Order Dismissing Appeal as Moot  
CORNERSTONE ENERGY :  
CORPORATION, AND RIDGEWOOD :  
ENERGY CORPORATION, :  
Appellants, :  
v. : Docket No. IBIA 04-74-A  
WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR, :  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, :  
Appellee. : June 3, 2004

Appellants Hall-Houston Oil Company, Cornerstone Energy Corporation, and Ridge-wood Energy Corporation (Appellants) sought review of the alleged failure of the Western Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs (Regional Director; BIA), to respond to a request for action made pursuant to 25 C.F.R. § 2.8. Appellants alleged that the Regional Director failed to respond to their letter to him dated January 15, 2004, in which they asked for a decision on their pending request that BIA administratively modify the application of rental schedules for certain oil and gas exploration and development leases on allotted Indian lands, identified by lease numbers 509-004130-0, 509-004131-0, 509-004132-0, and 509-004177-0.

On April 16, 2004, the Acting Regional Director issued a decision in response to Appellants' request. Appellants have separately filed an appeal on the merits from the Acting Regional Director's April 16, 2004, decision.

Appellants have received the relief they sought in filing this appeal based on alleged inaction by BIA. The Regional Director took action and issued a decision. Thus, the Board concludes that this appeal is moot. See Wopsock v. Western Regional Director, 40 IBIA 24 (2004); Ute Indian Tribe v. Western Regional Director, 38 IBIA 288 (2003).

Therefore, pursuant to the authority delegated to the Board of Indian Appeals by the Secretary of the Interior, 43 C.F.R. § 4.1, this appeal from the alleged inaction of the Western

Regional Director is dismissed as moot. This dismissal is without prejudice to Appellants' right to pursue their appeal from the Acting Regional Director's April 16, 2004, decision.

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// original signed  
Steven K. Linscheid  
Chief Administrative Judge

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// original signed  
Colette J. Winston  
Administrative Judge