

Tuesday April 17, 2012

William H. Stallings,  
Chief, Transportation, Energy and Agriculture Section, Antitrust Division,  
U.S. Department of Justice, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Suite 8000, Washington,  
DC 20530.

RE: The Settlement of GEC, and its "competitor," SGI bids on gas leases  
in the Ragged Mountain Basin.

**The case is Civil Action No. No. 12-cv-00395-RPM-MEH**

The Sherman anti-trust law allows the Justice Department to bring civil or criminal charges. In this case, Justice brought civil charges, and it allowed the two companies to get off easy. How does "easy" happen to one party and not to a citizen with a less egregious offense? I want to introduce to you the case I am talking about in the event it is not in your consciousness:

A young man in Utah, Tim DeChristopher, who disrupted a BLM gas sale in his state, is behind bars for two years (criminal case). He was put there by the same Department of Justice that has slapped the wrist of two large corporations, GEC and SG, whose low bids meant that the federal government, the state of Colorado, and the local counties and municipalities got less money than they would have if the four lease sales had been conducted competitively. Why is one case criminal and one civil? I think you have got these reversed in my perception. We all know that drilling for and production of gas puts a tremendous burden on government through roads, regulations, public health and the like so GEC and SGI ***put the burden on our communities by reducing money we would get to deal with these impacts.*** Is this a small matter that can be mitigated with a bit of money easily available to these large corporations with a civil case? And, insult to injury, no recourse for the offense by walking away with their leases in their pockets?

So, corporations are now people with greater rights than "us people" (now being called the 99%)? I would say that Justice is not doing its job and the citizens are following the dots (or as they say, "follow the money"). I'm embarrassed for Justice Department. This must be mitigated or there will be no credibility with us for this department of our government.

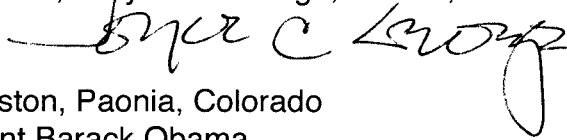
Help me understand how the 2 cases are different? Is all about money for legal fees that DeChristopher probably didn't have and the corps did? How can the Justice Department reconcile this aberration?

Wait! Then there are the larger questions: The BLM, in its attempt to sell 30,000 acres of leases in this area, is intending to hand us over to natural gas companies such as GEC and SGI. The BLM's Montrose office, which has the power and we think ***the duty to delay or stop this lease sale until it has completed a Resource Management Plan***, is rushing toward the 30,000-acre lease sale as quickly as possible. ***This is the same BLM office that handled the four lease sales that left the federal, state and county governments here with less money than they should have earned.*** What is going on? Is this our democracy or a third-world banana republic?

I am imploring the U.S. Department of Justice to set aside the proposed settlement, to vigorously investigate the other BLM auctions these companies have participated in and, at a minimum, to revoke the four leases that the Department of Justice alleges were obtained in an illegal manner.

Some or parts of those leases, by the way, underlie (GEC's) Mr. Bill Koch's private Ragged Mountain ranches and the BLM land he is attempting to do a land exchange for. Furthermore, please look into the DeCristopher case if you don't know about it and restore justice into the Justice Department.

Sincerely yours, Joyce C. George, Paonia, Colorado

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joyce C. George", with a long, sweeping underline.

Cc: Ed Marston, Paonia, Colorado  
President Barack Obama  
John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado

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