



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2015

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FEDERAL COURT GRANTS ORDER REQUESTED BY COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL CYNTHIA H. COFFMAN TO PREVENT BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FRACKING RULES FROM TAKING EFFECT

DENVER— Today, a Wyoming federal judge granted a request by four states— Colorado, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming—to prevent new hydraulic fracturing rules issued by the federal Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) from going into effect tomorrow.

“We are pleased the court agreed that the new BLM regulations present serious and difficult questions that justified a stay of these rules’ effective date,” said Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman. “We believe these rules intrude on Colorado’s sovereign right to responsibly and safely regulate the oil and gas industry within our borders.”

The four States asked the Court to temporarily delay the effective date of the BLM rule until the Court has an opportunity to review the rule's legality. The rule was to take effect on June 24, 2015. Three of the States— Colorado, North Dakota, and Wyoming – previously sent a letter to the federal government asking BLM to delay implementation of the rule until the court could rule on the States' legal challenges. The Department of Interior denied the States’ request. The States' lawsuit raises a straightforward legal question: whether BLM can impose its own regulations on hydraulic fracturing, even though federal law does not give it that power, and instead, allows states to regulate in this area.

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