



U.S. Department of the Interior

News Release

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

www.onrr.gov

Office of Public Affairs

For Immediate Release

July 6, 2015

News Media Contact:

Patrick Etchart, 303-231-3162

ONRR Issues \$6.9 Million Civil Penalty to High Plains Gas *Company cited for failure to submit production reports*

DENVER – The Department of the Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) announced today that it assessed a \$6,901,440 civil penalty to High Plains Gas, Inc. for failure to submit production reports as required by ONRR regulations and a Notice of Noncompliance (NONC).

“The basic information HPG repeatedly failed to report is indispensable to ONRR’s ability to perform the verification mandated by law to ensure we collect every dollar due on behalf of the American public, who owns these resources,” said Paul A. Mussenden, Interior’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources Revenue Management. “That includes submitting accurate and timely production reports, which ONRR and its sister agencies require for audit and compliance activities, including site inspections to ensure that companies are operating within established rules and consistent with lease terms.”

“Given its central importance to ONRR’s regulatory audit and compliance responsibilities, we will continue to insist on proper production reporting from all companies with leases on Federal lands,” Mussenden added.

ONRR issued a Notice of Noncompliance to High Plains Gas in July 2014 for its failure to report production for numerous Federal leases in Wyoming. High Plains Gas failed to comply by the deadline established in the NONC, and has not yet complied. The civil penalty – which will continue to accrue until High Plains Gas complies – was escalated because of prior violations by the company.

High Plains Gas has offices in Sheridan, Wyoming.

The Office of Natural Resources Revenue, part of the Department’s Office of Policy, Management and Budget, is responsible for collecting and disbursing revenues from energy production that occurs onshore on Federal and American Indian lands, and offshore in the Outer Continental Shelf. During Fiscal Year 2014, the agency disbursed more than \$13.4 billion to states, American Indian Tribes and individual Indian mineral owners, and to various Federal accounts, including the U.S. Treasury, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Reclamation Fund.

ONRR