



that protective changes will be made and that the action will not serve as a precedent in leasing other Indian tribal lands. Each proposal will be considered on its merits."

A major change made by the Department in the proposal submitted by the Tribe concerns the pricing of helium. The Tribe proposed fixing the minimum value at ten cents per thousand cubic feet for each one percent of helium content. Because this is considered by the Department's Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to be out of line in view of the availability of and market for helium, the Department called for addition of a clause to the lease form prohibiting the extraction of helium-bearing gas in excess of one percent by volume until an agreement can be reached between the lessor and lessee and approved by the Secretary as to the percentage royalty to be paid.

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