



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

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UTAH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NAMES DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING DIRECTOR

SALT LAKE CITY (May 6, 2005)— The Utah Department of Natural Resources today announced the appointment of John Baza as director of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Baza, who has been with the division for a total of 14 years, (including seven as associate director) brings a wealth of expertise from petroleum industry experience.

“John has been a useful facilitator in diminishing red tape that has hindered the process for accessing these resources,” said DNR Executive Director Mike Styler who characterized Baza as a proponent of responsible development; “He’s committed to maintaining a balance in economic viability and resource conservation.”

“The Governor has given clear instruction relating to economic development, and we have specific plans to make petroleum and mineral resources a part of that.” Baza remarked; “we are on the cusp of some very exiting discoveries in the state.”

This is the third and final vacancy to be filled in the team of seven division directors at the Department of Natural Resources. A selection committee was assembled to represent interests from various stakeholders throughout the state, and the committee collectively made the recommendation to Director Styler. The Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining held a special assembly today to confirm his appointment.

The Division of Oil Gas and Mining has the mission of directing oil, gas, coal and other mineral resources in a manner that ensures a balance between responsible development and economic viability. When exploration and developmental activities are completed, the division ensures that oil and gas wells are properly abandoned, and mining sites are satisfactorily reclaimed.

Photos of Mr. Baza can be found online at <http://www.nr.utah.gov/press>

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