

as a backup source of power for a wider region.

The FEIS includes seven alternatives to the proposed action: no action, upgrading either the existing temporary substation or the Nambe substation feeder, or constructing a new substation at one of five alternate locations. The no action alternative would deny approval of the easement. This would not necessarily prevent the Cooperative from upgrading its service, but would certainly result in higher costs to consumers. The proposed substation site is optimal for the distribution of power within its load area. For all of the other alternatives, operating costs increase according to distance from this central point.

The significant issues identified and analyzed in the FEIS include cultural resources, aesthetic qualities, and land use.

The BIA has afforded the public the opportunity to participate in the preparation of this FEIS. The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on March 25, 1993. One public scoping meeting was held on April 22, 1993, at the Pojoaque High School gymnasium in Pojoaque, New Mexico. Additional information for scoping was drawn from a public meeting held during the environmental assessment process, and from written comments submitted on the Environmental Assessment.

The Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register on March 8, 1996, with a 60 day public comment period ending on May 7, 1996. On April 11, 1996, a public meeting was held to inform the public about the Draft EIS and provide an opportunity for public comment. As a result of comments received at this meeting, the public comment period was officially extended to May 31, 1996. Additional notices to the public were published in the *Santa Fe New Mexican* and the *Rio Grande Sun*.

Dated: November 19, 1996.

Ada E. Deer,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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## Bureau of Land Management

[WY-030-1620-01; WYW139975]

### Environmental Impact Statement; Notice of Intent

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Conduct a Planning Review and Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Carbon Basin Tract coal lease

application, WYW 139975, and call for coal resource and other resource information 43 CFR 3420.1-2.

**SUMMARY:** Ark Land Company has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to obtain a Federal coal lease on 4145.15 acres of Federal coal lands located in Carbon County, Wyoming. The BLM has determined that an EIS must be prepared to evaluate the environmental impacts of coal mining which could result from the issuance of this lease. The application will be processed according to the coal lease-by-application (LBA) regulations at 43 CFR 3425. The Carbon Basin coal tract has not been identified in the Great Divide Resource Management Plan (RMP)(1990) as an area available for further coal leasing consideration. As a result, a planning review of the proposed coal lease project area will be conducted concurrently with the preparation of the coal lease EIS.

The Federal Coal Management Program established four major steps, collectively called "the coal screening/planning process" (43 CFR 3420.1-4), to be used in the identification of Federal coal areas that are acceptable for further leasing consideration. During the planning review, the coal screening process, including application of the coal unsuitability criteria (43 CFR 3461), will be conducted on the proposed project area. If the area is found acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing, it will result in an amendment to the Great Divide RMP.

In accordance with 43 CFR 3420.1-2, this notice also serves to fulfill the required call for coal and other resource information. This request for resource information is to formally solicit indications of interest and information on coal resource development potential and on other resources which may be affected by coal development for lands in the planning review/proposed project area. Industry, State and local governments, and the general public may submit information on lands that should or should not be considered for coal leasing, including statements describing why the lands should or should not be considered for leasing.

**DATES:** As part of this process, three public scoping meetings have been scheduled. On December 3, 1996, at 6:30 p.m., a meeting will be held at the Town of Hanna Administration Office, 301 S. Adams, Hanna, Wyoming. The second scoping meeting will take place in Laramie, Wyoming, at 6:30 p.m., December 4, 1996, at the Albany County Library, 310 S. Eighth Street. The final scoping meeting is scheduled for December 10, 1996, 6:30 p.m., at the

Jeffrey Memorial Community Center, Third and Spruce, Rawlins, Wyoming.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions, comments, or concerns should be addressed in writing to the Great Divide Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Karla Swanson, Area Manager, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301. In order to insure that comments will be considered in the draft EIS, they should be received by the BLM at the above address by January 3, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Interested parties may obtain further information or request to be placed on the Rawlins BLM District mailing list by contacting Brenda Vosika Neuman or John Spehar, (307-328-4200) or write to the above address.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Ark Land Company, St. Louis, Missouri, filed a coal lease application on September 20, 1996, with the BLM, pursuant to provisions of 43 CFR 3425.1 for the following lands in Carbon County, Wyoming:

Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming

T. 20 N., R. 79 W.

Sec. 6, lot 5.

T. 20 N., R. 80 W.

Sec. 4, lots 1, 2, 3;

Sec. 6, lots 1, 2, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 12, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 21 N., R. 79 W.

Sec. 20, N $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 28, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 30, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Sec. 32, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 21 N., R. 80 W.

Sec. 26, all;

Sec. 28, W $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 32, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 34, all.

The area described contains approximately 4145.15 acres.

The coal lease application area is located in the Carbon Basin, approximately 40 miles east of the town of Rawlins, 5 miles northwest of the town of Elk Mountain, 13 miles southwest of the town of Medicine Bow, and 12 miles southeast of the town of Hanna, all located in Carbon County, Wyoming. If successful in obtaining a Federal coal lease for the proposed project area, the coal mining would be conducted by Arch of Wyoming, Inc., an affiliate of Ark Land Company. Arch of Wyoming has operated coal mines in the Hanna Basin Region of Carbon County, Wyoming since 1972.

The primary coal mining operation would utilize conventional dragline, surface or strip mining methods to expose the coal resource, including the drilling and blasting of overburden material and coal. Once the stripping operation reaches its economic cutoff, coal exposed in the final highwall

would be extracted using a continuous highwall mining machine.

Mined coal would be transported by haul trucks approximately 14 miles to a loadout facility at Arch of Wyoming's Seminoe No. 2 Mine, 2 miles north of Hanna. Existing facilities at the Seminoe No. 2 Mine would be used to crush, store, and ship coal produced from the proposed Carbon Basin Mine.

Mining is proposed to begin in the year 2000. The anticipated rate of production is about 2,000,000 tons of coal per year. It is predicted that surface minable reserves could be depleted in 8 to 10 years. Potential for underground mining exists, but will not be evaluated until after the completion of surface mining.

Upon completion of mining activities, disturbed lands within the project area would be reclaimed and recontoured to approximate original contours and would be revegetated to accommodate pre-mining uses.

The Office of Surface Mining will be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS because it is the Federal agency that administers surface coal mining under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

Land and resource management issues and concerns specific to surface coal mining, development, operation, and reclamation in the proposed project area, adjacent State and private lands within the project area, and the transporting of mined coal to a remote facility that will be analyzed in the EIS include: air quality, hydrology, soils, vegetation, agriculture, transportation and public safety, conflicts with oil and gas lessees, Native American concerns, threatened and endangered species, impacts to raptor/sage grouse breeding and nesting areas, visual resources, recreation, social and economic effects on local communities, and cumulative impacts. Integral to the consideration and analyses of these issues and concerns and the preparation of the EIS, will be conducting the four steps of the coal screening/planning process (i.e., identifying the occurrence and development potential of coal resources in the project area, applying the coal unsuitability criteria, identifying other multiple use conflicts and impacts associated with the proposed coal mining, and surface owner consultation).

Dated: November 18, 1996.

Bill G. Daniels,

*Acting State Director.*

[FR Doc. 96-29869 Filed 11-21-96; 8:45 am]

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[ID-990-1020-01]

### Resource Advisory Council Meeting

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) council meeting of the Upper Snake River Districts Resource Advisory Council will be held as indicated below. The agenda includes discussions on the Bennett Hills Resource Management Plan Supplemental Draft, historical/cultural issues, Off Road Vehicle issues and healthy rangeland standards and guidelines. All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have a time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the council meeting is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment, and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meetings, or need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Debra Kovar at the Shoshone Resource Area Office, P. O. Box 2-B, Shoshone, ID, 83352, (208) 886-7201.

**DATE AND TIME:** Date is December 10, 1996, starts at 8:30 a.m. at the KMVT Building at 1100 Blue Lakes Blvd N in Twin Falls, Idaho. Public comments from 9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. on December 10, 1996.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of the public lands.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Debra Kovar, Shoshone Resource Area Office, P. O. Box 2-B, Shoshone, ID 83352, (208) 886-7201.

Dated: November 18, 1996.

Gary Bliss,

*Acting District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 96-29870 Filed 11-21-96; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Executive Office for Immigration Review

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: New Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Notice of information collection under review; application for cancellation of removal.

The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until January 21, 1997.

Request written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

If you have additional comments, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information, please contact Margaret M. Philbin, 703-305-0470, General Counsel, Executive Office for Immigration Review, U.S. Department of Justice, Suite 2400, 5107 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22041.

Additionally, comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time may also be directed to Ms. Philbin.

Overview of this information collection:

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* New Collection

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* Application for Cancellation of Removal.