

Dated: August 30, 2001.

**Alan Rabinoff,**

*Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.*

[FR Doc. 01-24662 Filed 10-2-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ES-020-01-1310-EI]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare Planning Analyses/Environmental Assessments

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare planning analyses/environmental assessments.

**SUMMARY:** The Jackson Field Office, Eastern States will prepare Planning Analyses/Environmental Assessments (PA/EA) to consider leasing scattered tracts of Federal mineral estate for oil and gas exploration and development. This notice is issued pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1501.7 and Title 43 CFR 1610.2(c). The planning effort will follow the procedures set forth in Title 43 CFR part 1600. The public is invited to participate in this planning process, beginning with the identification of planning issues and criteria.

**DATES:** Comments relating to the identification of planning issues and criteria will be accepted for 30 days from the date of this publication.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Jackson Field Office, 411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404, Jackson, MS 39206.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Reiss, Lead for PA/EA, Jackson Field Office, (601-977-5400).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM has responsibility to consider nominations to lease Federal mineral estate for oil and gas exploration and development. An interdisciplinary team will be used in the preparation of the PA/EAs. Preliminary issues, subject to change as a result of public input, are (1) potential impacts of oil and gas exploration and development on the surface resources and (2) consideration of restrictions on lease rights to protect surface resources. The number of separate analyses that will be prepared for the tracts will depend on their proximity to each other. Tract locations, along with acreage, are listed below.

#### Alabama, Clarke County, St. Stephens Meridian

T 6 N, R 3 E—Section 4:  
W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

T 9 N, R 1 E—Section 31: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

#### Alabama, Conecuh and Monroe Counties, St. Stephens Meridian

T 6 N, R 8 E—Section 34: NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

T 6 N, R 9 E—Section 19:  
S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

#### Alabama, Lamar County, Huntsville Meridian

T 16 S, R 16 W—Section 5: N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
Section 11: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 20:  
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

#### Alabama, St. Clair County, Huntsville Meridian

T 13 S, R 4 E—Section 24: E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ , Section  
25: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

#### Arkansas, Ouachita County, 5th Meridian

T 15 S, R 14 W—Section 31:  
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T 15 S, R 15 W—Section 23:  
S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ W $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

T 16 S, R 14 W—Section 4:  
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

#### Arkansas, Yell County, 5th Meridian

T 5 N, R 23 W—Section 18:  
N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

T 5 N, R 24 W—Section 13: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

#### Louisiana, East Carroll Parish, Louisiana Meridian

T 18 N, R 13 W—Sections 41, 42, 43, 46,  
47, 48, 50 51, 52

#### Louisiana, Webster Parish, Louisiana Meridian

T 19 N, R 8 W—Section 22:  
E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Due to the limited scope of this PA/EA process, public meetings are not scheduled.

**Bruce E. Dawson,**

*Field Manager, Jackson Field Office.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1320-EL; WYW150210, WYW150318, WYW151134, WYW151643, & WYW154001]

#### Federal Coal, Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Scoping

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on four maintenance lease applications received for five Federal coal tracts in the decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming, and Notice of Scoping.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received the

following competitive coal lease applications:

1. On March 10, 2000, Powder River Coal Company applied for a maintenance coal lease for approximately 4,500 acres (approximately 564 million recoverable tons of coal) in two tracts adjacent to the North Antelope/Rochelle Mine Complex in Campbell County, WY. The tracts, which are referred to as the NARO North Lease by Application (LBA) Tract and the NARO South LBA Tract, were assigned case numbers WYW150210 and WYW154001, respectively.

2. On March 23, 2000, Ark Land Company applied for a maintenance coal lease for approximately 2,799.5 acres (approximately 383.6 million in-place tons of coal) adjacent to the Black Thunder Mine in Campbell County, WY. The tract, which is referred to as the Little Thunder LBA Tract, was assigned case number WYW150318. On June 14, 2001, Ark Land Company filed an application to modify the Little Thunder LBA Tract. As currently filed, the tract includes approximately 3,449.317 acres and 440 million tons of recoverable coal reserves.

3. On July 28, 2000, Triton Coal Company applied for a maintenance coal lease for approximately 1,868 acres (approximately 173.2 million in-place tons of coal) adjacent to the North Rochelle Mine in Campbell County, WY. The tract, which is referred to as the West Roundup LBA Tract, was assigned case number WYW151134.

4. On September 12, 2000, Antelope Coal Company applied for a maintenance coal lease for approximately 3,500 acres (approximately 292.5 million in-place tons of coal) adjacent to the Antelope Mine in Campbell and Converse Counties, WY. The tract, which is referred to as the West Antelope LBA Tract, was assigned case number WYW151643. On June 27, 2001, Antelope Coal Company filed an application to modify the West Antelope LBA Tract. As currently filed, the tract includes approximately 3,542 acres and 293.9 million tons of in place coal reserves.

The tracts were applied for as maintenance tract LBAs under the provisions of 43 CFR 3425.1. The Powder River Regional Coal Team (RCT) reviewed these lease applications at a public meeting held on October 25, 2000, in Cheyenne, WY. The RCT recommended that BLM process these four lease applications. As part of the LBA process, BLM will prepare an environmental analysis in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA),

develop possible stipulations regarding mining operations, determine the fair market value (FMV) of the Federal coal included in each tract, and evaluate maximum economic recovery (MER) of the coal in each proposed tract.

BLM has determined that the requirements of NEPA would be best served by preparing one environmental impact statement (EIS) for these four lease applications, which are part of a contiguous group of five mines located south and east of Wright, WY. The purpose of the public scoping period and public scoping meeting is to allow interested parties to submit comments and/or relevant information that BLM should consider in preparing a draft EIS and in evaluating the FMV and MER of the Federal coal included in these four coal lease applications in the Wyoming Powder River Basin.

**DATES:** Scoping comments should be submitted by October 31, 2001, in order to be fully considered in the draft EIS. A public scoping meeting is scheduled to be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 10, 2001, at the Clarion Western Plaza Motel, 2009 S. Douglas Highway, Gillette, WY.

If you have concerns or issues that you believe the BLM should address in processing this exchange proposal, you can express them verbally at the scoping meetings; or you can mail, e-mail or fax written comments to BLM at the addresses given below by October 31, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Please address questions, comments or concerns to the BLM Casper Field Office, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604, fax them to 307-261-7587, or send e-mail comments to the attention of Nancy Doelger at [casper\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:casper_wymail@blm.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Doelger or Mike Karbs at the above address, or phone: 307-261-7600.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 10, 2000, Powder River Coal Company filed a coal lease application for the following lands in two tracts adjacent to the North Antelope/Rochelle Mine Complex in Campbell County, WY:

#### **NARO North—WYW150210**

T. 42 N., R. 70 W., 6th PM, Wyoming  
 Section 28: Lots 5-16;  
 Section 29: Lots 5-16;  
 Section 30: Lots 9-20;  
 T. 42 N., R. 71 W., 6th PM, Wyoming  
 Section 25: Lots 5-15;  
 Section 26: Lots 7-10;  
 Section 35: Lots 1, 2, 7-10, 15, 16.

Containing 2,369.38 acres, more or less.

#### **NARO South—WYW 154001**

T. 41 N., R. 70 W., 6th PM, Wyoming

Section 19: Lots 6-11, 12(S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>), 13-20;  
 Section 20: Lots 5(S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>), 6(S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>), 7(S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>), 8(S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>), 9-16;  
 Section 21: Lots 5(S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>), 12,13;  
 Section 28: Lots 3-6, 11, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
 Section 29: Lots 1-12;  
 Section 30: Lots 5-12.

Containing 2,133.635 acres, more or less.

The tracts as applied for include an estimated 564 million tons of recoverable coal. According to the application filed for the NARO North and NARO South LBA Tracts, mining the coal included in these maintenance tracts would extend the life of the North Antelope/Rochelle Mine Complex.

On March 23, 2000, Ark Land Company filed a coal lease application for lands adjacent to the Black Thunder Mine in Campbell County, WY. The following lands are included in the tract as currently filed:

#### **Little Thunder—WYW150318**

T. 43 N., R. 71 W., 6th PM, Wyoming  
 Section 2: Lots 5, 6, 11-14, 19, 20;  
 Section 11: Lots 1, 2, 7-10, 15, 16;  
 Section 12: Lots 2 (W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> and SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>), 3-16;  
 Section 13: Lots 1-16;  
 Section 14: Lots 1, 2, 6-9, 14, 15;  
 Section 24: Lots 1-16;  
 Section 25: Lots 1, 2, 7-10, 15, 16;  
 T. 44 N., R. 71 W., 6th PM, Wyoming  
 Section 35: Lots 1, 2, 7-10, 15, 16.

Containing 3,449.317 acres more or less.

The tract includes an estimated 440 million tons of in-place coal. According to the application, the coal is needed to maintain existing mining operations at the Black Thunder Mine and would be used for electric power generation.

On July 28, 2000, Triton Coal Company, LLC filed a coal lease application for the following lands adjacent to the North Rochelle Mine in Campbell County, WY:

#### **West Roundup—WYW151134**

T. 42 N., R. 70 W., 6th PM, Wyoming  
 Section 6: Lots 8-23;  
 Section 7: Lots 5-14;  
 Section 8: Lots 1-12;  
 Section 9: Lots 11,12,14;  
 T. 43 N., R. 70 W., 6th PM, Wyoming  
 Section 31: Lots 13-20;  
 T. 42 N., R. 71 W., 6th PM, Wyoming  
 Section 1: Lots 5,6,11-13.

Containing 1,868.120 acres more or less.

The tract includes an estimated 173.2 million tons of in-place coal.

On September 12, 2000, Antelope Coal Company filed a coal lease application for lands adjacent to the Antelope Mine in Campbell and Converse Counties, WY. The following lands are included in the tract as currently filed:

#### **West Antelope—WYW151643**

T. 40 N., R. 71 W., 6th PM, Wyoming

Section 3: Lots 15-18;  
 Section 4: Lots 5-20;  
 Section 5: Lots 5-7, 10-15, 19, 20;  
 Section 9: Lot 1;  
 Section 10: Lots 3, 4;  
 T. 41 N., R. 71 W., 6th PM, Wyoming  
 Section 28: Lots 1-16;  
 Section 29: Lots 1-16;  
 Section 32: Lots 1-3, 6-11, 14-16;  
 Section 33: Lots 1-16.

Containing 3,542.19 acres more or less.

The West Antelope tract includes an estimated 293.9 million tons of in-place coal. According to the application, mining this coal would extend the life of the existing mine and the coal would be mined for sale to electrical power generating plants.

As part of the coal leasing process, BLM will evaluate the tract configurations for each of these tracts and may decide to add or subtract Federal coal to avoid bypassing coal or to increase estimated FMV.

Each of the mines adjacent to the applied for LBA tracts (North Antelope/Rochelle Mine Complex, Black Thunder Mine, North Rochelle Mine, and Antelope Mine), has an approved mining and reclamation plan from the Land Quality Division of the Wyoming DEQ and an approved air quality permit from the Air Quality Division of the Wyoming DEQ. Each mine has previously acquired maintenance coal leases using the LBA process.

The U.S. Forest Service (FS) will be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS because the surface of some of the land included for consideration for leasing is owned by the Federal government and administered by the FS as part of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) will be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. If the tracts are leased as maintenance tracts, each new lease must be incorporated into the existing mining and reclamation plan for the adjacent mine and the Secretary of the Interior must approve the revision to the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) mining plan before the Federal coal in each tract can be mined. OSM is the Federal agency that would be responsible for recommending approval, approval with conditions, or disapproval of the revised MLA mining plans to the office of the Secretary of the Interior if any or all of these tracts are leased.

Several issues have been raised during processing previous applications to lease Federal coal in the Wyoming Powder River Basin. These include:

1. The need for resolution of conflicts between existing and proposed oil and

gas development, including coal bed methane, and coal mining on the tracts proposed for leasing;

2. Potential impacts to big game herds and hunting;
3. Potential impacts to sage grouse;
4. Potential impacts to Threatened and Endangered species;
5. The need for considering the cumulative impacts of leasing decisions combined with other existing and proposed development in the Wyoming Powder River Basin;
6. Potential health impacts related to blasting; and
7. The potential impacts on air and water quality.

If you have specific concerns about these issues, or have other concerns or issues that BLM should consider in processing this application, please express them at the public meeting or address them in writing to the above address. Written comments should be received by October 31, 2001, in order to be fully considered in the draft EIS.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed above during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: August 29, 2001.

**Donald E. Shepard,**

*Acting Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.*

[FR Doc. 01–24661 Filed 10–2–01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[UT–080–1610–DO]

#### Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to hold public scoping meetings for the Vernal Field

Office Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Vernal Field Office, Utah, is initiating public scoping meetings in order to provide for public involvement opportunities for the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The new RMP is being prepared in coordination with other Federal, State, and local agencies, and affected public land users.

**DATES:** The BLM will be hosting local and regional scoping meetings/open houses throughout October and November of 2001. Locations of scoping meetings/open houses will also be published in the local and regional news papers at least 15 days before the meetings.

**ADDRESSES:** Meetings will be held at the following locations and times; Duchesne County Courthouse, 734 North Center Street, Duchesne, Utah, Wednesday, October 17, 2001, 7 to 9 p.m. Vernal Western Park, 302 East 200 North, Vernal, Utah, Thursday, October 18, 2001, 7 to 9 p.m. Utah Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West Temple, Suite 1040, Salt Lake City, Utah, Thursday, October 25, 2001, 7 to 9 p.m. Daggett County Courthouse, 95 North 100 West, Manila, Utah, Thursday, November 1, 2001, 6 to 8 p.m. Green River City Office, 240 East Main Street, Green River, Utah, Thursday, November 8, 2001, 6 to 8 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Dave Howell, Field Manager or David Moore, Supervisory Planning Coordinator, Vernal Field Office, Vernal, Utah, (435) 781–4400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 12, 2001, the Vernal Field Office published in the **Federal Register**, (Volume 66, Number 48, pages 14415–14417), a notice of intent to plan, and prepare a resource management plan and environmental impact statement. The notice provided early opportunities for the public to comment on preliminary issues and planning criteria. It also requested additional information that the public may have on various resources within the field office area. The notice stated that another **Federal Register** Notice would be published to identify the dates and locations of future scoping meetings. This notice constitutes that notification.

Individual comments received during the scoping/open house meetings including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM office listed above

during regular business hours.

Comments received during the scoping meetings will also be summarized and made available in a scoping report, shortly after the public meetings have been held.

If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: September 14, 2001.

**Sally Wisely,**

*State Director.*

[FR Doc. 01–24665 Filed 10–2–01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–\$–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY–920–1310–01; WYW 134944]

#### Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated; Oil and Gas Lease

August 23, 2001.

Pursuant to the provisions of 30 U.S.C. 188(d) and (e), and 43 CFR 3108.2–3(a) and (b)(1), a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease WYW 134944 for lands in Natrona County, Wyoming, was timely filed and was accompanied by all the required rentals accruing from the date of termination.

The lessee has agreed to the amended lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$10.00 per acre, or fraction thereof, per year and 16<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> percent, respectively.

The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and \$158 to reimburse the Department for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice. The lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Section 31 (d) and (e) of the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate lease WYW13944 effective February 1, 2001, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the