United States Department of the Interior

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June 7, 2004

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) to document and disclose the results of the environmental analysis for the application received by BLM to lease a tract of federal coal. A copy of this document is provided for your review and comment. Additional copies of the document are available for review at the following BLM offices:

Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office 5353 Yellowstone Road Cheyenne, Wyoming	Bureau of Land Management Rock Springs Field Office 280 Highway 191 North Rock Springs, Wyoming

The Draft EA was published in January 2004 and a formal public hearing was held March 9, 2004, to receive comments on the Draft EA, fair market value, and maximum economic recovery of the federal coal included in the tract. No comments were received at the public hearing and eight comment letters were received by BLM on the environmental analysis. These comment letters and BLM's responses can be found in Appendix B of the Final EA.

The BLM will accept public comments on this Final EA for 30 days commencing on the date the BLM publishes a Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The expected date of publication in the *Federal Register* is June 7, 2004. Comments received after the end of the 30-day comment period will be considered in preparation of the Decision Record, if time permits.

If you wish to comment on the Final EA, your comments should relate directly to the document. We request that you make your comments as specific as possible and that you cite the location(s) in the document you are commenting on. Substantive comments should:

1. provide any new information that could alter conclusions;
2. show why or how the analysis or assumptions in the Final EA are flawed;
3. show errors in data or methods; or
4. request clarifications that bear on the conclusions.

Opinions or preferences will not receive formal response; however, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision-making process.

This Final EA was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable regulations, and other applicable statutes, to address possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could result from this project. The Final EA is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the agency decision makers of the impacts of leasing this tract of federal coal in southwest Wyoming and to evaluate alternatives to leasing federal coal.

Comments including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the address listed below during regular business hours (7:45a.m. - 4:30p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and will be published as part of the Decision Record. 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 statement. 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 inspections in their entirety.

Please send written comments to:

Teri Deakins, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Written comments may also be sent via e-mail to teri_deakins@blm.gov. E-mail comments must include the name and address of the commenter to receive consideration. Written comments may also be faxed to 307-352-0328.

If you have questions or would like to obtain additional copies of the Final EA, please contact Teri Deakins at 307-352-0211 or Jeff Clawson at 307-352-0323.

Alan L Kesterke

Alan L. Kesterke
Associate State Director

1 Attachment
1 – Final EA