



For Immediate Release: July 1, 2010

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BLM Seeks Input on McClane Canyon Mine Request for Lease Modification and Proposal for Mine Expansion

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office is seeking public input on an environmental assessment for a request for a lease modification and a proposal to expand the McClane Canyon Mine.

The underground coal mine is located 20 miles north of Fruita on State Highway 139. The proposal was submitted by CAM-Colorado LLC (CAM).

CAM is requesting a lease modification of 320 acres to federal coal lease C-0125439 to ensure long-term access to unmined reserves located north and south of the existing mine operations within the McClane Canyon Mine leasehold. The lease modification would reduce the risk of bypassing millions of tons of federal coal within the leasehold and allow the mine to remain in operation.

The McClane Canyon Mine currently trucks approximately 280,000 tons of coal per year to the Cameo Power Plant east of Grand Junction on Interstate 70. The Cameo Power Plant is scheduled to close at the end of 2010, which would cause the McClane Canyon Mine to close as well. CAM is proposing to expand the McClane Canyon Mine to produce 500,000 tons of coal per day and ship the coal to eastern markets via rail. To meet specifications, CAM is proposing to construct a cleaning plant, which would provide upgraded coal. The cleaning plant would consist of a crushing and screening plant, an air jig plant, a bag house, and numerous conveyors. CAM is proposing to permanently stockpile coal mine waste rock in a 14.5-acre location south of the existing facility. CAM is proposing to truck the coal to a unit train load-out facility, which would be located on private property just west of the Fruita refinery. The total new surface disturbance would cover 23.7 acres.

Written comments and questions should be directed to the BLM Grand Junction Field Office at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506. Comments may also be submitted via email at gjfo_webmail@blm.gov. All comments are due by July 30, 2010.

Copies of CAM's proposal and request for lease modification are available for review at the BLM Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, in Grand Junction. Digital copies of the proposal and a project map are available at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo.html>. For more information, contact Scott Gerwe at 970-244-3077.

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