

## **WEST ANTELOPE II COAL EIS**

### Background

In April 2005, Antelope Coal Company filed an application for a coal lease to provide reserves to allow the Antelope Mine to continue production. The Powder River Basin Regional Coal Team reviewed the application later that month and recommended the LBA be processed.

### Current Status

A Record of Decision (ROD) was issued in April 2010. The decision was to offer two tracts for competitive sale. The tracts were delineated by BLM under alternative 2 in the EIS. This decision is under appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. This appeal was made by the Powder River Basin Resource Council, and is pending board action. This decision is also the subject of a complaint in federal district court (DC district) made by WildEarth Guardians, Defenders of Wildlife, and Sierra Club. Appeal issues include global climate change, air quality impact, reclamation and the leasing process used in the Powder River Basin.

Additionally, Defenders of Wildlife have given notice of intent to file a complaint in the same court regarding insufficient consideration of impact to threatened and endangered species due to climate change.

### Past Actions

BLM issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on this LBA – October 2006

BLM conducted scoping and a public meeting in Douglas – November 2006

A Draft EIS was issued for public comment - February 2008

A public hearing was held in Douglas – March 2008

A Final EIS issued for public comment – December 2008

Responses to comments on the Final EIS issued – April 2010

Record of Decision (ROD) issued - April 2010

### Future Actions

Two competitive sales could be scheduled, announced and held, after FMV analysis is updated.

If high bids at sale meet or exceed FMV, leases could be issued to those bidders.

If lease issued, lessees would have to permit the leases for mining through Wyoming DEQ and OSM.