

2800 (020)
WYW-162998
MTM-95236

Dear Reader:

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Belfry to Clark 69 kV Power Line Project, proposed by Beartooth Electric Cooperative Inc., is furnished for your review and comment. The document is also available at

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cyfodocs/beartooth_powerline.html

No decision has been made at this time regarding the proposal. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will accept public comment for 30 days prior to making a decision. After analysis of the comments, BLM will document its decision in a Decision Record (DR). The BLM's decision will be with respect to the BLM-administered public lands in the project area.

The BLM could decide to approve the issuance of a right-of-way grant for the proposed project, or for an alternative project configuration. If it were determined that the project could cause a significant impact to the human environment, it would be necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement before a final decision could be made. Alternatively, BLM could deny the right-of-way grant if there were a potential that the project could cause unnecessary or undue degradation to the public lands, or if it would threaten a violation of other Federal law.

This EA was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and other relevant law and regulation, to fully disclose the anticipated impacts of the proposed power line project and reasonable alternatives. A "No Action" alternative is also described. The project proponent's proposed action was modified to incorporate Project Design Features (PDFs) which avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, eliminate, or compensate for adverse impacts. These PDFs reflect regulatory requirements, management plan requirements, surface use requirements, protective measures, operating procedures, and best management practices.

We will accept comments on the EA until close of business on Monday, March 17, 2008. Comments should be submitted by mail to:

BLM Cody Field Office
ATTN: Belfry to Clark Power Line Project
P.O. Box 518
Cody, WY 82414

or

by e-mail to: cody_wymail@blm.gov

Your participation in the NEPA process for this project is appreciated. Please contact the Cody Field Office at (307) 578-5900, or the Billings Field Office at (406) 896-5013, if more information is needed.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael P. Stewart

Michael P. Stewart
Field Manager, Cody

Attachment