
BLM News Release

For Immediate Release

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BLM 970-244-3097

September 1, 2009

BLM Sets September 9 Public Hearing Date for Oxbow Coal Lease Application

MONTROSE, CO – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office has released a draft Environmental Assessment on a proposed coal lease by Oxbow Corp. Oxbow applied for a coal lease adjacent to its Elk Creek Mine near Somerset in Gunnison County.

BLM will hold a public hearing to receive comments on the draft EA Wednesday, September 9 in Paonia. The hearing will be held at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Community Center Room, 214 Grand Avenue.

The proposed Elk Creek East Tract would include about 786 acres of BLM-managed surface and mineral estate containing an estimated 3.96 million tons of recoverable federal coal reserves.

Drafts of the EA and its associated Finding of No Significant Impact, Fair Market Value, and Maximum Economic Recovery documents will be available for public review at the hearing. They are also available now on the Uncompahgre Field Office website at http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Information/nepa/ufo.html (scroll to # 2008-53).

Written comments will be accepted through September 25, 2009. Written comments should address, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The quality and quantity of the coal resources
2. The mining method or methods to achieve Maximum Economic Recovery of the coal including specifications of the seams to be mined, timing and rate of production, restriction to mining, and the inclusion of the tract in an existing mining operation
3. The Fair Market Value appraisal including but not limited to the evaluation of the tract as an incremental unit of an existing mine, selling price of the coal, mining and reclamation costs, net present value discount factors, depreciation and other tax accounting factors, value of the surface estate, and any comparable sales data on similar coal lands. The values given above may or may not change as a result of comments received from the public and changes in market conditions between now and when final economic evaluations are completed.

Written comments may be submitted by mail, email, or fax to:

BLM-UFO, Mining Engineer



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