



## United States Department of the Interior



**Bureau of Land Management**  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2465 South Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, Colorado 81401

OCT 3 2011

In Reply Refer to: 3432, COC-37210, COC-61209

Dear Interested Party,

The Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office (BLM), is seeking comments on proposed federal coal lease modifications on public lands. Bowie Resources, LLC (Bowie) has applied to the BLM to modify two of their existing federal coal leases. The proposed lease modifications would add approximately 505.08 acres to existing coal leases COC-37210 and COC-61209. The proposed modification tracts are adjacent to the existing federal coal leases and if granted would allow expansion of the currently operating Bowie No. 2 mine near Paonia in Delta County, Colorado.

The lease modifications are located on lands in which BLM manages a portion of the surface (174 acres on COC-61209) and all of the mineral estate (COC-37210 and COC-61209). The application was made to obtain known mineable federal coal reserves and prevent bypass of those reserves. The BLM is required by law to consider leasing Federal Coal for economic recovery.

The coal lease modification areas are described as:

### **COC-61209 Modification**

Township 13 South, Range 91 West, 6th P.M.

Section 5: SWNW, NWSW, SWSW, NESW, S/2NESENW, S/2SENW, S/2NWSSENW,  
SWSWNE, S/2NWSWNE, W/2NWSE

Section 6: SENE

containing 265 acres more or less

### **COC-37210 Modification**

Township 13 South, Range 92 West, 6th P.M.

Section 1: S/2NE, S/2NW, S/2 Lot 1, S/2 Lot 2, S/2 Lot 3, S/2 Lot 4  
containing 240.08 acres more or less

If BLM decides to modify the leases, the modifications would then be offered by non-competitive sale. The BLM would also identify any needed stipulations to protect non-coal (surface) resources. If the lease modifications are issued, they would serve as tracts for extended underground development and longwall mining, allowing more efficient recovery of federal coal from the existing leases and added recovery from the applied-for tracts. The additional federal coal recovery would extend the life of the current mine by approximately one year. The coal would be transported using Bowie's existing underground belt conveyor system and prepared for

sale at Bowie's existing surface coal handling facilities. A more detailed description of the proposed project, including maps is available on the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office website (<http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html>).

The BLM has determined that this action must be evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify potential environmental impacts related to the proposed action. The BLM is seeking any comments you may have related to this project. Your comments will assist the interdisciplinary team in identifying issues that should be addressed as part of the evaluation being prepared for this project.

Written comments may be submitted by mail, email, or fax. Comments concerning this proposal should be submitted no later than November 7, 2011 and sent to:

Desty Dyer  
BLM-UFO  
2465 South Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, Colorado 81401  
Email: [ddyer@blm.gov](mailto:ddyer@blm.gov)  
Fax: (970) 240-5368

Parties expressing interest during this comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.400. Appeal and stay procedures are outlined in Form CO-1840. Only those who submit timely comments will be accepted as appellants of the final decision. Comments must be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Also, for appeal eligibility, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify their identity upon request. Please note that comments and information submitted regarding this project, including email addresses and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, email address, or street address from public view or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by the law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,



Barbara Sharrow  
Field Manager