

*The following presentation is an overview of the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, process to be undertaken for the proposed East Lynn Lake Coal Lease. This project involves the leasing of Federal coal bordering East Lynn Lake in Wayne County, West Virginia. The purpose of this presentation is to summarize the Proposed Action and the Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario so that you can more easily provide us with your concerns regarding this project – a process referred to as ‘scoping’.*

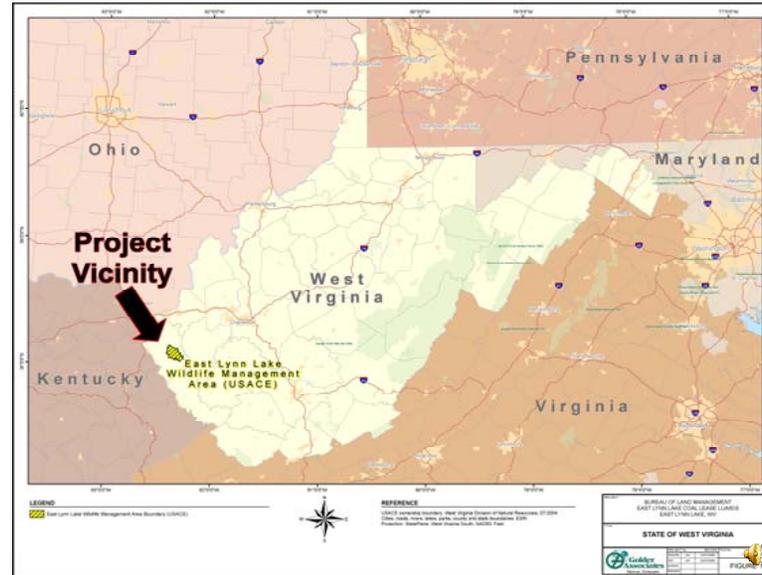
## Public Scoping

### *Keep in mind:*

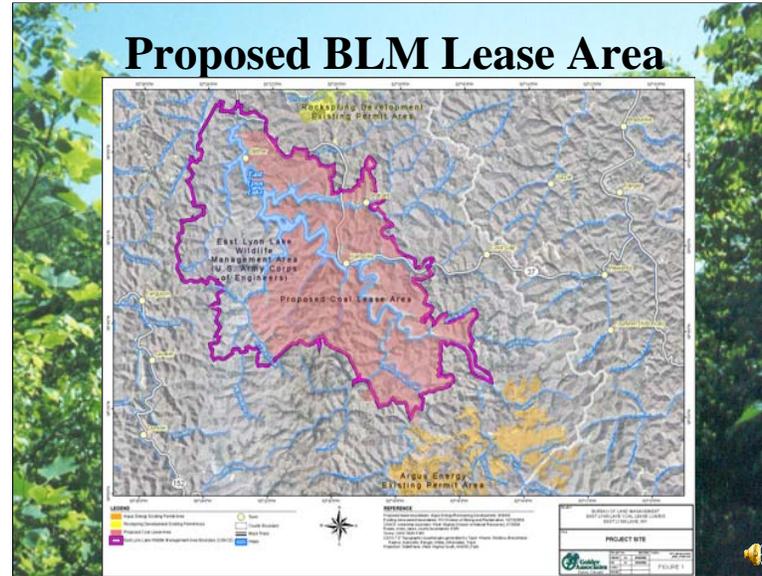
- Make thoughtful, rational comments on impacts and alternatives;
- be specific about your concerns; and,
- be sure that you are identifying the primary effect, not the general cause, of your concern.

*Scoping is an opportunity for you to have input at the earliest phase of the decision-making process on proposals that affect you. Through this process you can have access to public officials before decisions are made to answer any questions you may have, and you have the right to explain your objections and concerns. When providing your input, please keep in mind the following:*

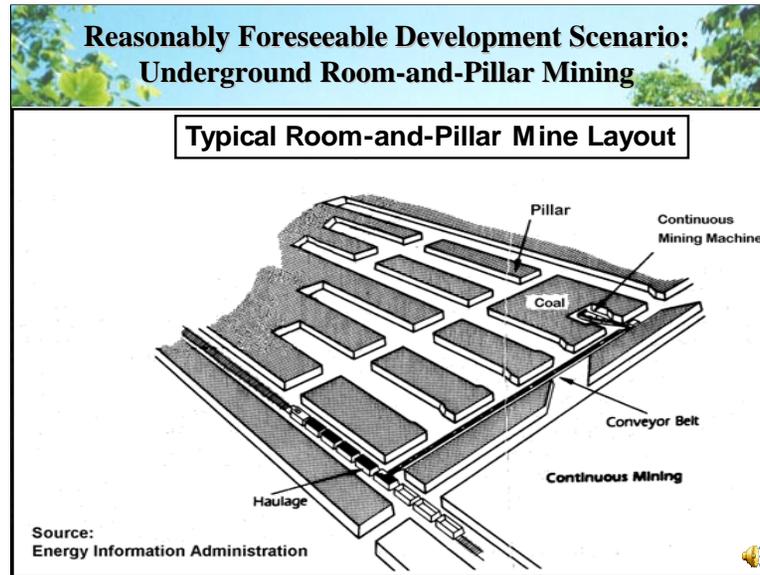
- *First, the purpose of this ongoing process is for Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, preparers to properly address any concerns you may have. Use this opportunity to make thoughtful, rational comments on impacts and alternatives.*
- *Second, be specific about your concerns. When the EIS preparers encounter a vague comment such as “cultural concerns,” they will have to make their own judgment about what you meant, and you may find that your issues are not covered. Thus, you should refine the broad general topics, and specify which issues need evaluation and analysis.*
- *Third, be sure that you are addressing the principal impacts, not the primary causes, of your concerns. For example, oil and gas development is a cause of many impacts. Simply listing this generic category is of little help. You must go beyond the obvious causes to the specific effects that are of concern, such as: “Roads cut through my land will impact the wildlife.”*



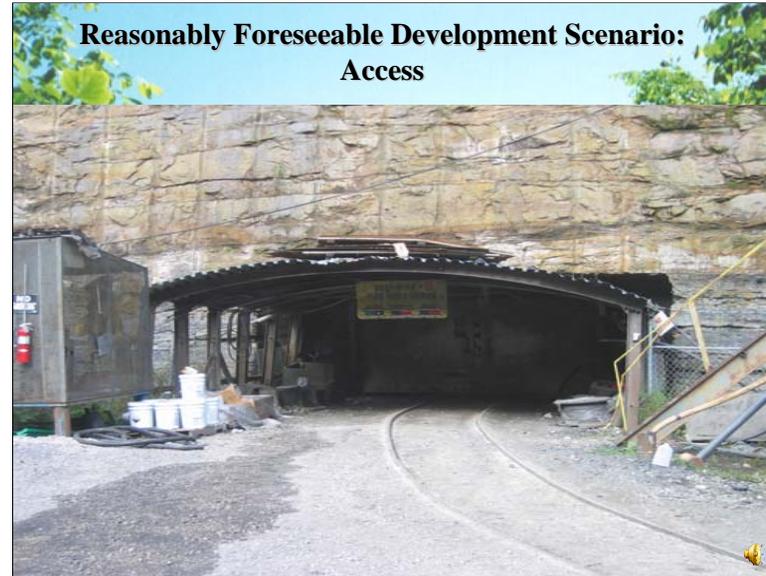
*The Proposed Action is located in southwestern West Virginia in Wayne County, just outside of the town of Wayne.*



*The Bureau of Land Management, or BLM, proposes to lease up to 13,090 acres for the purpose of underground coal mining, with revenue from leasing split between state and federal government. The lands being considered for lease border East Lynn Lake on portions of both its north and south shores, but no mining would occur beneath the lake itself.*

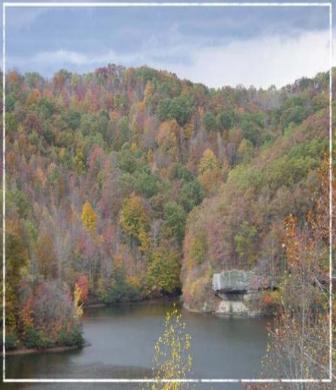


*The Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario would involve underground room-and-pillar mining with 50% extraction of no more than 13,090 acres of Federal coal. No secondary mining, meaning the pillars would not be removed, would occur in this scenario. This image is a schematic drawing of a typical room-and-pillar mine. The coal will be extracted from rectangular shaped rooms or entries in the coal seam, leaving part of the coal between the entries as pillars to support the hanging wall or roof.*



*The coal would be accessed from existing, permitted, operating mines on adjoining private land.*

**Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario:  
Little or No Surface Disturbance**



- **Would NOT involve...**
  - Secondary Mining
  - Surface Mining
  - Mountaintop Removal
  - Valley Fill
  - Open-Pit Mining Methods
  - New Mine Portals
  - New Facilities
  - New Structures
  - Mining under East Lynn Lake

*The Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario would not involve any secondary mining, surface mining, mountaintop removal, valley fill, or open pit mining methods. No new mine portals, facilities, or structures would be constructed on the surface of the lease tracts. Additionally, no mining would occur under East Lynn Lake. The only new surface disturbance would be for mine ventilation and/or mine rescue shafts, and these only if necessary.*

### Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario: Permitting and Review

- **LUA/EIS Review**
- **Record of Decision (ROD)**
- **IF competitive leasing takes place:**
  - **Federal Coal Mining Permit**
    - Knoxville OSM
  - **Mine Permit**
    - WV Department of Environmental Protection
  - **Drainage Permit**
    - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
  - **Surface Owner Notification**
  - **Mining and Ventilation Plan Submission**
    - West Virginia Office of Miner Health and Safety
  - **Oversight provided by MSHA**

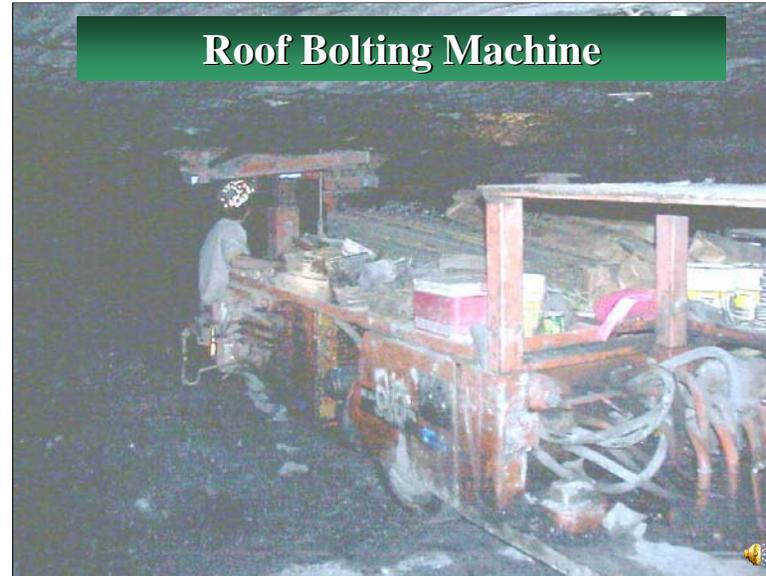
→ Mining would continue for approximately 10-20 years

*After review of the Land Use Analysis and EIS, a decision will be reached regarding which alternative is preferred. The rationale for the decision will be explained within the Record of Decision. If a decision is made to proceed with competitive leasing, the mining and processing operations would be subject to additional local, state, and federal permitting. These permits would include: (1) a Federal coal mining permit obtained from the Office of Surface Mining Knoxville Office; (2) a mine permit from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection; and, (3) permit modifications from the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System to accept drainage from the Office of Surface Mining permit areas. At least six months prior to mining, surface owners would receive notification and instructions on how to request a subsidence survey; additionally, mining and ventilation plans would be sent to the West Virginia Office of Miner Health and Safety, and oversight would be provided by the Mining Safety and Health Administration, or MSHA. Preliminary information indicates that mining of the leases would continue for approximately 10 to 20 years, although the actual duration and quantities would depend on resource conditions, coal price, and alternate coal sources.*

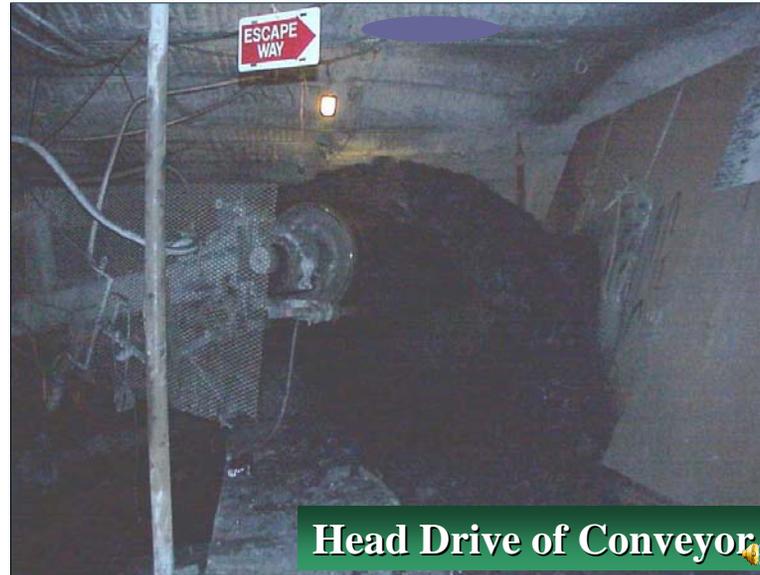
## Continuous Miner



*Modern mining equipment, including continuous mining machines shuttle cars, or continuous face haulage systems...*



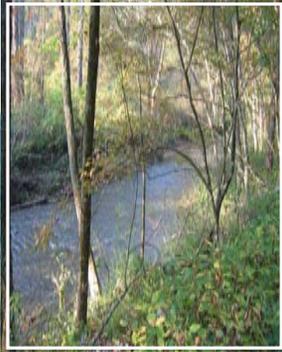
*...roof bolting machines...*



*...belt conveyor systems, and auxiliary equipment would be used to extract the coal. The extraction process would be in accordance with mining plans approved by MSHA, and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Division of Mining and Reclamation. After coal is extracted from the mine face, it would be placed on an underground conveyor system, assembled in the mains and submains, which would transport the coal from the active face to an existing surface portal.*

## Preliminary Issues

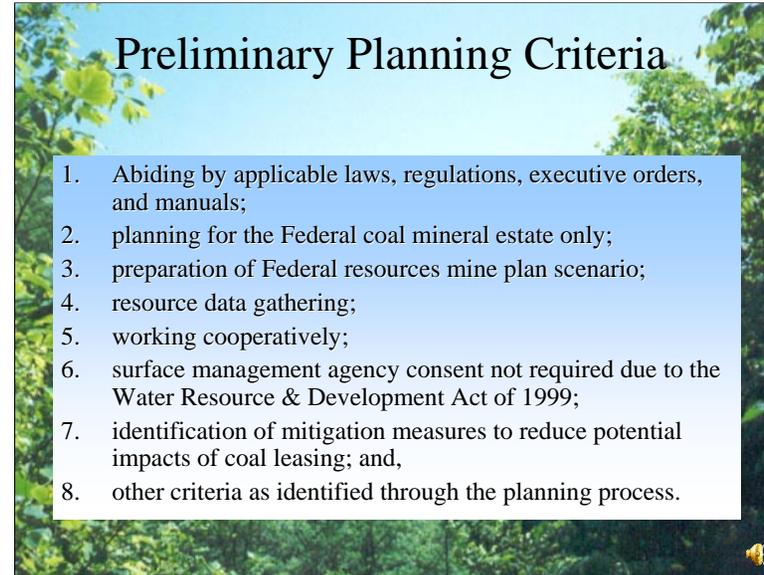
- Socioeconomic impacts
- Potential for surface subsidence
- Impacts to cultural resources
- Impacts to ground and surface waters (quality and quantity)
- Impacts to other surface resources
- Others based on scoping process



*Preliminary issues identified for the EIS and land use analysis thus far include: Socioeconomic impacts, the potential for surface subsidence, impacts to cultural resources, impacts to ground and surface water quality and/or quantity, impacts to other surface resources, and any other issues based upon the scoping process.*



*In addition to the preliminary issues just mentioned, the resources listed here will also be analyzed for potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Action and Proposed Action alternatives.*



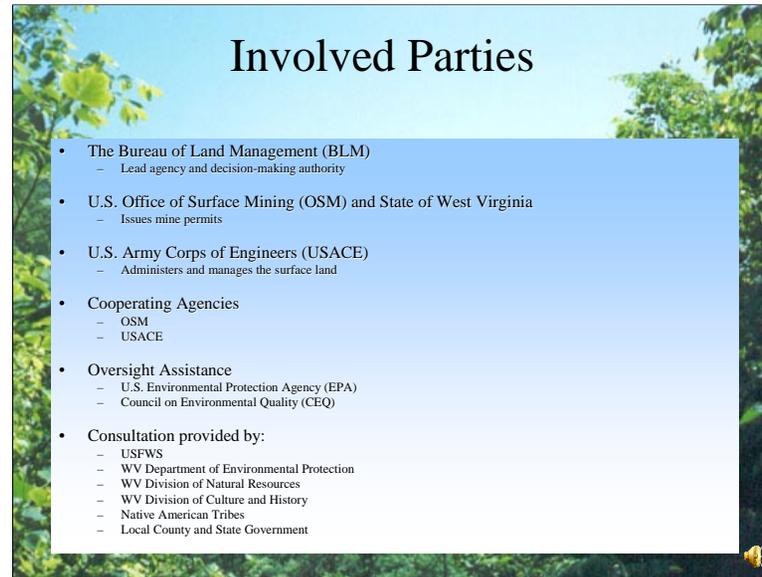
*Preliminary planning criteria developed to guide the preparation of the LUA/EIS include the following:*

- 1. Land use planning and environmental analysis will be conducted in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, executive orders and manuals.*
- 2. Planning will be conducted for the Federal coal mineral estate only.*
- 3. A mine plan scenario will be prepared for the Federal resources.*
- 4. Resource data needed to assess the effects of coal mining and coal development drilling will be collected.*
- 5. The planning team will work cooperatively with Federal, State and local governments and agencies, as well as groups, organizations and individuals.*
- 6. In accordance with the Water Resource and Development Act of 1999, consent will not be required from the surface management agency should coal leasing be approved.*
- 7. The LUA/EIS will identify mitigation measures designed to reduce or avoid potential impacts of coal leasing.*
- 8. Other criteria as identified through the planning process.*

## Estimated Schedule

• <b>December 2006</b>	Scoping Ends
• <b>April 2007</b>	Analysis of the Management Situation
• <b>January 2008</b>	Draft Land Use Analysis and Draft EIS
• <b>Jan 2008-Apr 2008</b>	Comment Period and Hearing 90 days
• <b>Apr 2008-Aug 2008</b>	Analyze Comments and Revise Document
• <b>Sept 2008</b>	Proposed Land Use Analysis and Final EIS
• <b>Sept 2008-Nov 2008</b>	Public Protest Period (30 days) & Governors Consistency Review (60 days)
• <b>Nov 2008-Dec 2008</b>	Resolve Protests
• <b>January 2009</b>	Approved Land Use Analysis & Record of Decision

*The East Lynn Lake Coal Lease EIS and Land Use Analysis is currently underway in the early stages of scoping, which generally takes place in the beginning stages of an environmental impact assessment. This slide outlines the anticipated schedule for the duration of the East Lynn Coal Lease EIS and LUA.*



*In accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act and the Water Resource and Development Act of 1999, the BLM will be the decision-making authority regarding leasing of the Federal coal. The Office of Surface Mining in cooperation with the State of West Virginia issues mine permits under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and the US Army Corps of Engineers administers the surface land overlying the Federal coal and manages the area for flood control, recreation, and wildlife management. The Office of Surface Mining and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have agreed to participate as Cooperating Agencies in the proposed coal leasing action. In addition, local County and State agencies have been invited to participate. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Council on Environmental Quality will provide oversight capabilities to the process. Consultation will be provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, local Native American tribes, and local County and State Government.*



*Thank you for your participation in this important process, and please remember to provide your written comments before you leave!*