



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Miles City Field Office
111 Garryowen Road
Miles City, Montana 59301-0940
<http://www.blm.gov/mt>

In Reply To:

3425 (MTC022)
2920
MTM-069782
MTM-74913

February 12, 2010

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) completed an Environmental Assessment (MT-DOI-BLM-MT-020-2010-29) for the Spring Creek Coal Lease Modification Application MTM-069782 and the application to amend Land Use Lease (LUL) MTM-74913. The Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzed the environmental impacts of modifying an existing coal lease, MTM-069782, to include a tract of Federal coal reserves adjacent to the Spring Creek Mine, an operating surface coal mine in the northwest Powder River Basin (PRB). The modification, if approved, would add approximately 498.1 acres that contain about 50.8 million tons of insitu coal.

The EA also analyzed the environmental impacts of assigning Spring Creek Coal Company's (SCCC) LUL MTM-74913 from Spring Creek Coal Company to Spring Creek Coal Limited Liability Company, renewing the LUL for an additional 20 years and amending the lease to authorize the use of approximately 197.12 additional acres of public land. The LUL land would be used for coal mine layback, construction of a flood control structure, placement of topsoil and overburden stockpiles, and establishment of transportation and utility line corridors in order to fully recover coal reserves from existing Federal Coal Lease MTM-94378 and Montana State Coal Lease C-1088-05, and from the above referenced pending lease by modification (LBM). If the amendment is approved, the LUL would total 222.12 acres.

The BLM is soliciting comments on the EA/FONSI for a period of thirty (30) days, ending March 15, 2010. The EA and FONSI are available for viewing and printing on the web at www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/miles_city_field_office.html. If you wish to participate in the review process, please submit all comments on the EA/FONSI in writing or email to:

Bureau of Land Management
Miles City Field Office
Attn: Spring Creek Coal Lease Modification
111 Garryowen Road
Miles City, MT 59301-0940
or
MT_Miles_City_FO@blm.gov
(Please insert, Spring Creek Coal Lease Modification, in the subject line)

For further information, please contact Dan Benoit at the BLM Miles City Field Office at (406) 233-3646.

Sincerely,

/s/ Deborah K. Johnson

Deborah K. Johnson
Field Manager
Miles City Field Office