

**Alton Coal Tract LBA  
Kane County, Utah  
Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

**Lead Agency:** U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

**Type of Action:** Draft ( X ) Final ( )  
Administrative ( ) Legislative ( )

**Jurisdiction:** Color Country District Office, Kanab Field Office, Utah

**Abstract:** This supplemental draft environmental impact statement (SDEIS) analyzes and discloses the potential environmental effects of leasing and mining the coal reserves in the Alton Coal Lease by Application (LBA) Tract encompassing approximately 3,576 acres of land in Kane County near the town of Alton. The SDEIS was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in response to Alton Coal Development's LBA for federal coal, which would be recovered using primarily surface-mining methods.

The Proposed Action would include approximately 3,576 acres, of which approximately 2,280 acres are federal surface and mineral estate and 1,296 acres are split estate (private surface estate and federal mineral estate). Recoverable portions of in-place coal reserves would be mined over approximately 25 years using surface-mining methods where the depth of overburden is less than approximately 200 feet, and using underground methods where the depth of overburden exceeds approximately 200 feet. The choice of mining method, however, could vary from the 200-foot overburden threshold depending on the coal thickness, overburden type, overburden (highwall) stability, underground mining techniques available, operating and capital costs, and coal market economics. Approximately 2 million tons of coal per year would be mined once topsoil stockpiling and initial overburden removal have occurred. Reclamation would be concurrent with mining over the course of the estimated 25-year mine life and would be followed by a minimum 10-year reclamation and revegetation monitoring period. The proposed Alton Coal Tract would include centralized and dispersed facilities and the relocation of KFO Route 116. Under the Proposed Action, the tract would be offered for lease at a sealed-bid, competitive lease sale, subject to lease stipulations developed for the tract.

The SDEIS also analyzes a No Action Alternative (as required by the National Environmental Policy Act) that would not authorize the leasing of the tract, and two action alternatives to the Proposed Action (Alternative C and Alternative K1). Under Alternative C, the Alton Coal Tract would be modified to exclude a portion of the tract near the town of Alton. Further, certain mining activities in the southern portion of the tract would be subject to seasonal restrictions to reduce impacts to the local Greater Sage-Grouse population. Under Alternative K1, the Alton Coal Tract would be modified to exclude two portions of the tract: a portion near the town of Alton as well as a southern portion. Under Alternatives C and K1, the modified tract would be offered for lease at a sealed-bid, competitive lease sale, subject to lease stipulations developed for the tract.

Five open house public meetings will be held in Alton, Kanab, Panguitch, Cedar City, and Salt Lake City, Utah. The public meetings will be announced by the BLM at least 15 days in advance through public notices and local media news releases and mailings. The purpose of these meetings is to provide information on the proposed coal lease tract and to collect public comment on the adequacy and accuracy of the analysis in the SDEIS. Comments will be accepted for 60 days following the EPA's publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register*, for use in development of the final EIS. Comments may be submitted to Alton Coal Tract LBA EIS, Keith

Rigtrup, BLM, Kanab Field Office, 669 South Highway 89A, Kanab, Utah 84741, or sent to [blm\\_ut\\_kn\\_altoncoal@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_kn_altoncoal@blm.gov). Comments may also be faxed to (435) 644-1299. For information about the proposed coal lease tract or to view the SDEIS, visit the BLM Utah homepage on the Internet.