

SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

( ) Draft

(X) Final Environmental Statement

Director, Department of the Interior,  
Bureau of Land Management  
Washington, D. C. 20240

1. Type of action: (X) Administrative ( ) Legislative

2. Brief description of action:

The statement covers the probable impact of the possible development of 11 new coal strip mines, 4 new mine mouth coal fired generating plants (1780-megawatts), 2 gasification plants, and a 113-mile long mainline railroad by 1990 within the Eastern Powder River Coal Basin.

In addition to the regional portion of the statement which analyzes all of the above stated development on a regional basis, the statement also analyzes on a site specific basis, development or expansion of four mines (Wyodak, Carter, A.R.Co. and Kerr-McGee) and the 113-mile railroad. The Federal Government has been asked to approve the mining plans of these four companies and to grant the necessary rights-of-way for construction of the railroad.

3. Summary of environmental impacts (by 1990)

- A. Ambient air quality will be lowered
- B. Altitude of land surface will be lowered where coal is removed
- C. Vegetation will be destroyed from mining and construction of attendant facilities
- D. Soil structure and parent material will be disrupted and altered on the area to be strip mined
- E. Valuable energy resources will be made available for utilization
- F. Water utilization and consumption will increase for industrial uses, possibly reducing amount available for other uses (agriculture, wild-life, recreation)
- G. Unknown archeological and paleontological values may be destroyed
- H. Scenic views will be changed and altered
- I. Wildlife habitats will be altered and some populations will be reduced while others will increase
- J. Recreation use will be intensified
- K. Livestock forage will be reduced during mining operations
- L. Possible overall reduction of the productivity of the mined areas even after reclamation
- M. New transportation networks will be created
- N. Population in the study area will increase
- O. Employment in the study area will be increased
- P. Tax and royalty income will be increased in the study area
- Q. Income levels will increase within the study area
- R. All infrastructural facilities will be impacted

4. Alternatives considered

- A. No new development
- B. Restrict development
- C. Complete exportation of all coal mined
- D. Different extraction methods
- E. Various reclamation objectives
- F. Alternate to private industry development
- G. Different modes of distribution
- H. Different utilization methods
- I. Alternate energy sources

Comments on the draft were requested from the following:

Environmental Protection Agency

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
Office of Oil and Gas  
Geological Survey  
Office of Coal Research  
Bureau of Mines  
Office of Land Use and Water Planning  
Office of Water Resources Research  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Office of Environmental Project Review  
Office of Solicitor  
Bureau of Reclamation

Northern Great Plains Resource Program

United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Soil Conservation Service

Federal Power Commission

United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Interstate Commerce Commission

Atomic Energy Commission

Department of Transportation

State of Wyoming Offices  
Governors Clearing House  
Attorney General  
Agriculture  
Economic Planning and Development  
Education

State Engineer  
Environmental Quality  
Game and Fish  
Geological Survey  
Health and Social Services  
Highway Department  
Occupational Health and Safety  
Public Lands  
Public Service Commission  
Recreation Commission  
State Archeologist  
State Historic Preservation Office  
University of Wyoming

Board of County Commissioners of

Campbell County  
Converse County  
Johnson County  
Weston County  
Niobrara County  
Natrona County  
Crook County  
Sheridan County

Other Organizations

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Wyoming Outdoor Council  
Sierra Club, Northern Great Plains Office  
Wyoming Environmental Institute  
Wyoming Audubon Society  
Izaak Walton League - Wyoming Division  
Wyoming Wildlife Federation  
Powder River Basin Resources Council  
Western Region, Wilderness Society  
Rocky Mountain Center on Environment  
The Wildlife Society  
Wyoming Geological Association  
Society for Range Management  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association  
Wyoming Wool Growers Association  
Wyoming Archeological Association  
Wyoming State Historical Society  
Northern Plains Resource Council  
Wyoming Mining Association  
Petroleum Association of Wyoming  
American Association of Petroleum Geologists  
American Institute of Mining Engineers

Comments were received from:

Department of Interior  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Office of Coal Research  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

Bureau of Mines

Department of Agriculture

Environmental Quality Activities

Forest Service

Office of the Secretary

Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station

Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station

Department of Commerce

The Ass't Secretary for Science and Technology

Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

Atomic Energy Commission

Environmental Protection Agency

Federal Energy Administration

State of Wyoming (Governors Clearing House)

Board of County Commissioners

Niobrara County

Other Organizations

Cheyenne High Plains Audubon Society

Burgess and Davis, Attorneys - Landowners

Wilderness Society

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

University of Wyoming (Black Thunder Project)

Environmental Defense Fund

Wyoming Sierra Club Group

Wyoming Chapter, Wildlife Society

Sierra Club

Institute of Ecology

National Resources Defense Council, Inc.

Upper Snake River Group, Sierra Club

Geothermal Energy Institute

Industry

Amax Coal Company

Middle South Utilities

Central Louisiana Electric Company

Getty Oil Company  
Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company  
Southwestern Public Service Company  
Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company  
Texas Utilities Services, Inc.  
Atlantic Richfield Company  
Carter Oil Company  
Kerr-McGee Coal Corporation  
Black Hills Power and Light Company  
VTN Mineral Development Corporation  
Nebraska Public Power District  
Gulf States Utilities Company  
Gulf Energy and Minerals Company

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