



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer To:

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WYW141435
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APR 25 2000

Dear Reader:

This copy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Horse Creek Coal Lease Application, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Serial Number WYW141435, is provided for your review and comments. This FEIS has been prepared to analyze the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of issuing a maintenance coal lease for the Horse Creek Federal coal tract located adjacent to the Antelope surface coal mine in southeastern Campbell County and northeastern Converse County, Wyoming.

This FEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, applicable regulations, and other applicable statutes, to address possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could result from this project. This FEIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public of the impacts of leasing and mining the Federal coal proposed for lease in a maintenance coal lease application and to evaluate alternatives to leasing and mining the coal in the proposed maintenance coal lease application.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Horse Creek Coal Lease Application was mailed to the public in November 1999. A formal public hearing on the proposed Horse Creek coal lease application was held at 7 p.m. on December 7, 1999, at the Holiday Inn, 2009 S. Douglas Highway, Gillette, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing was to receive comments on the proposed coal lease sale, on the fair market value and maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal resources in the proposed Horse Creek tract, and on the DEIS. Comments were accepted on the DEIS until January 12, 2000, 60 days after the November 12, 1999, publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency. Nine written comments were received on the DEIS. These comments are included in Appendix F of this FEIS. These comments are also available for public review at the address listed below during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

BLM will prepare and distribute a decision to lease, or not to lease, the Federal coal included in the Horse Creek LBA Tract following a 30-day FEIS review period. Please address questions or

comments related to the decision to lease this Federal coal or requests for additional copies of this FEIS to Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604, fax (307-261-7587), email: casper_wymail@blm.gov , attn: Nancy Doelger.

Sincerely,



for Alan R. Pierson
State Director

Attachment