



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

1793
WYW127221
N. Rochelle

APR 2 1997

Dear Reader:

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) has been prepared pursuant to 40 CFR 1500-1508 for the North Rochelle Coal Lease Application (WYW127221), located in Campbell County, Wyoming. This copy of the FEIS is provided for your review and comments. This FEIS has been revised in response to the comments that were received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was mailed to the public in early November 1996. The comment period extended through January 10, 1997. Eleven written comment letters were received on the draft document, and they are included with responses, as Appendix G of this FEIS.

A formal public hearing on the proposed North Rochelle Coal Lease Application was held at 7 p.m. on December 12, 1996, 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 coal resources in the proposed North Rochelle tract (originally called the North Roundup tract), and on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. A transcript of the hearing proceedings is available for review at the Bureau of Land Management office in Casper. An open house was held prior to the hearing, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on December 12, 1996, at the Gillette Holiday Inn to answer questions regarding the North Rochelle coal lease application, as well as other pending Federal coal lease applications, other mineral development issues in the Powder River Basin, the coal leasing process, and the coal unsuitability screening process.

Comments will be accepted on the FEIS, as well as on the issues of Fair Market Value of the tract, and Maximum Economic Recovery of coal on the tract through May 19, 1997. Please address written comments to Bureau of Land Management, Casper District Office, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 1701 East "E" Street, Casper, WY 82601. Written comments may also be faxed to 307-234-1525. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Doelger at 307-261-7627.

Sincerely,


Alan R. Pierson
State Director