



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

In Reply Refer To:

3420(LBA)(930)
WYW136142
Powder River
WYW136458
Thundercloud

23 JAN 1998

Dear Reader:

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared pursuant to 40 CFR 1500-1508 for the Powder River (WYW136142) and Thundercloud (WYW136458) coal lease applications, located in southeastern Campbell County, Wyoming. This copy of the final EIS is provided for your review. It is not a decision document, its purpose is to inform you of the impacts of leasing and mining the Federal coal proposed for lease in two maintenance coal lease applications, and to evaluate alternatives to the proposals.

The draft EIS was mailed to the public in August of 1997, and the comment period extended through October 28, 1997. A formal public hearing on the proposed Powder River and Thundercloud coal lease applications was held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 8, 1997, 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 Powder River and Thundercloud tracts, and on the draft EIS.

Ten comment letters were received on the draft EIS. The final EIS considers these comments, which are included along with BLM's responses, as Appendix H of the final EIS.

BLM will make a separate decision for each of the two tracts evaluated in this Final EIS. A separate Record of Decision detailing the BLM decision to lease or not to lease the Federal coal included in each tract will be prepared and distributed following a 30 day Final EIS review period. If you have any questions or comments related to the decision to lease the Federal coal in the Powder River and Thundercloud LBA Tracts, please address them to Bureau of Land Management, Casper District Office, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 1701 East "E" Street, Casper, WY 82601, fax: 307-234-1525, phone: 307-261-7627.

Sincerely,


Alan R. Pierson
State Director