



# 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:

3425 (LBA)  
WYW163340  
WY922 (Janssen)  
Phone No: 307-775-6206  
FAX No: 307-775-6203

January 11, 2008

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document and disclose the results of an environmental analysis of an application received by BLM to lease a tract of Federal coal, the West Antelope II tract, to the Antelope Mine in the Wyoming Powder River Basin. A copy of this document is provided for your review and comments. The Draft EIS may also be reviewed on the following website: [http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/West\\_Antelope\\_II.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/West_Antelope_II.html). Copies of the Draft EIS are also available for public inspection at the following BLM offices:

Bureau of Land Management  
Wyoming State Office  
5353 Yellowstone Road  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Bureau of Land Management  
Casper Field Office  
2987 Prospector Drive  
Casper, Wyoming 82604

A formal public hearing on this application to lease Federal coal will be held at 7 p.m. on March 24, 2008, at the Best Western Douglas Inn, 1450 Riverbend Drive, Douglas, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the proposed coal lease sale, on the fair market value, and on the maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal resources included in the tract.

BLM will accept public comments on this Draft EIS, for sixty (60) days commencing on the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Comments received after the end of the 60-day comment period will be considered in preparation of the Final EIS as time permits. BLM is also publishing a Notice of Availability and Notice of Hearing in the Federal Register.

If you wish to comment on the Draft EIS, your comments should relate directly to the document. We request that you make your comments as specific as possible and that you cite the location or locations in the document on which you are commenting. The agencies involved in preparing this Draft EIS are required to respond in the Final EIS to all substantive comments submitted on the Draft EIS. Substantive comments should: (1) give any new information that could alter

conclusions; (2) show why or how analysis or assumptions in the Final EIS are flawed; (3) show errors in data, sources, or methods; or (4) request clarifications that bear on conclusions.

Opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response. However, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision making process.

This Draft EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable regulations, and other applicable statutes, to address possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could result from this project. This Draft EIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the agency decision makers of the impacts of leasing the West Antelope II tract of Federal coal to the existing Antelope Mine in the Wyoming Powder River Basin and to evaluate alternatives to leasing the Federal coal included in the tract as applied for.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be 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, and will be published as part of the Final EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Please send written comments to Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, Attn: Sarah Bucklin, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. Written comments may also be e-mailed to the attention of Sarah Bucklin at "casper\_wymail@blm.gov". E-mail comments must include the name and mailing address of the commentor to receive consideration. Written comments may also be faxed to (307) 261-7587.

If you have any questions or would like to obtain additional copies of this DEIS, please contact Sarah Bucklin at (307) 261-7541, or at the above address.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Bennett  
State Director



**WEST ANTELOPE II COAL LEASE APPLICATION  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Prepared by

**EDE Consultants  
Sheridan, Wyoming**

Under the Direction of

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Casper Field Office  
Casper, Wyoming**

and

Cooperating Agencies

**U.S. Department of Interior  
Office of Surface Mining  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
Western Region  
Denver, Colorado**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
Douglas, Wyoming**

**Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
Land Quality Division and Air Quality Division  
Cheyenne, Wyoming**

**Converse County Board of Commissioners  
Douglas, Wyoming**

February 2008