# United States Department of the Interior

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June 4, 2004

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document and disclose the results of an environmental analysis of an application received by BLM to lease Federal coal to an existing mine in the Wyoming Powder River Basin. A copy of this document is provided for your review and comments. The Final EIS may be reviewed on the BLM Wyoming homepage (www.wy.blm.gov). Copies of the Final EIS also are available for public inspection at the following BLM offices.

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

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

The Draft EIS was published in March 2003, and a formal public hearing was held in Gillette, Wyoming, on April 16, 2003, to receive comments on the Draft EIS and on the fair market value and on the maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal resources in the tract. Comments from one speaker recorded at the public hearing and eight written comment letters received by the BLM on the Draft EIS are included with agency responses as Appendix H in this Final EIS

The BLM will accept public comments on this Final EIS for thirty (30) days commencing on the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. When the BLM becomes aware of the date of that publication, the BLM will notify all parties on this project's mailing list of the final date when comments will be accepted. Comments received after the end of the 30-day comment period will be considered in preparation of the Final EIS as time permits. The BLM is also publishing a Notice of Availability and Notice of Hearing in the *Federal Register*.

If you wish to comment on the Final 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. 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 Final 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 Final EIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the agency decision makers of the impacts of leasing a tract of Federal coal to an existing mine in the Wyoming Powder River Basin and to evaluate alternatives to leasing the coal.

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: Patricia Karbs, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. Written comments may also be e-mailed to the attention of Patricia Karbs at casper_wymail@blm.gov. E-mail comments must include the name and mailing address of the commenter 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 Final EIS, please contact Patricia Karbs at (307) 261-7612 or at the above address.

Alan L. Kesterke
Associate State Director

1 Attachment
1 – Final EIS