

Form letter 2

Dear Ms. Johnson and Bureau of Land Management:

I am writing to support the no-action alternative in the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the South Gillette Area Coal Leases. The coal mined as a result of the South Gillette leases would allow for almost 900 million tons of coal to be mined, transported to coal-fired power plants, and combusted, emitting hundreds of millions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. In addition, the project would further degrade public lands and resources -- contributing to the decline of greater sage grouse, black-tailed prairie dogs, and rare plants -- and further degrade poor air quality in the region. This proposal to open up even more new coal mines in the Powder River Basin in Wyoming comes at a time when we desperately need to be transitioning away from business-as-usual energy dependency and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. Climate scientist Dr. James Hansen has stated that burning existing coal reserves would lead to catastrophic global warming. Now is the time to embark on a clean-energy future in which we reduce atmospheric CO2 levels back to below 350 parts per million, as leading scientists tell us we must to avoid a dangerously destabilizing our climate system. New coal mines have no place in this cleaner, brighter future. I urge the Bureau of Land Management to choose the no-action alternative and begin immediately to phase out the use of coal.

Copies received without modification = 14,427

Copies received with modification = from 665 individuals

Identical copies of form letter received from a single individual = 758 but counted as one

Substantial comment subjects pulled from modified form letters:

Concerned about additional mercury contamination from coal burning = 6

Concerned about the validity of BLM's fair market value process = 8

Concerned about the BLM Multiple Use Mandate = 17

Concerned about endangered species (unspecified species) = 10

BLM should choose other uses for its land surface than coal mining = 19

BLM should transition out of coal leasing = 50

Concerned about government corruption on issues pertaining to coal leasing and coal development = 15

BLM should stop all coal leasing and stop the use of coal immediately in electricity generating power plants across the nation = 80

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Concerned that "Clean Coal" initiatives will not suffice in protecting the environment enough = 29

Concerned that underground coal mining and mountain top removing coal mining practices are occurring in Wyoming = 12

Concerned that coal is the best form of CO₂ sequestration and should be retained as such = 4

Concerned that BLM is approving the development of new coal fired power plants = 10

Concerned that American Tax dollars are being used to subsidize coal mining in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming (comes from clean coal initiative wording?) = 8

Concerned that the coal companies are gaining too much profit from federal coal that the BLM manages for the American people = 15

Concerned about overall air quality in Wyoming and other locations up air stream = 17

Concerned about how coal mining effects water quality in Wyoming = 10

Concerned that reclamation is not keeping pace with coal mining nor is being done to proper standards for environmental protection = 10

Concerned that coal should be saved for future to use when we know how to use it more efficiently with fewer negative environmental consequences = 5

BLM needs to decrease America's electrical power demand = 5

BLM should develop wind and other renewable energy instead of coal = 17

Concerned about human health = 3

BLM needs to replace coal development in Wyoming with wood pellet development in Wyoming to be used for energy production = 1