



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office

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WYW150210  
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WYW151134  
WYW151643

DEC 02 2003

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 applications received by BLM to lease five tracts of Federal coal to existing mines 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 at [www.wy.blm.gov](http://www.wy.blm.gov). Copies of the Final EIS 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 following list names the tracts proposed for leasing with the applicant mine for each tract shown in parentheses:

- NARO North (North Antelope/Rochelle Complex)
- NARO South (North Antelope/Rochelle Complex)
- Little Thunder (Black Thunder Mine)
- West Roundup (North Rochelle Mine)
- West Antelope (Antelope Mine).

The Draft EIS was published in January 2003, and a formal public hearing was held in Gillette, Wyoming, on March 4, 2003, to receive comments on the Draft EIS, and on the fair market value and maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal included in the five tracts. Comments from four speakers recorded at the public hearing and twelve written comment letters received by BLM on the Draft EIS, are included with agency responses as an Appendix in this Final EIS.

A separate document that includes some more detailed information about the potentially affected resources for each tract, entitled *Supplementary Information on the Affected Environment in the General Analysis Area for the South Powder River Basin Coal EIS*, is available.

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 Records of Decision as time permits. The BLM is also publishing a Notice of Availability of the Final EIS 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.

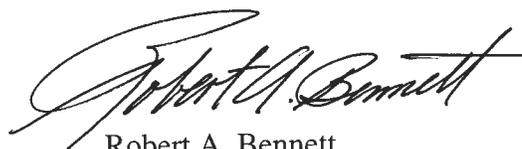
This Final EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable regulations, and other applicable statutes, to address possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could result from this project. This Final EIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the agency decision makers of the impacts of leasing five tracts of Federal coal to four existing mines 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 the Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. Written comments may also be e-mailed to the attention of Nancy Doelger at [casper\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto: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 Final EIS, or of the document entitled *Supplementary Information on the Affected Environment in the General Analysis Area for the South Powder River Basin Coal EIS*, please contact Nancy Doelger at (307) 261-7627, or at the above address.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Bennett  
State Director

**FINAL**

**SOUTH POWDER RIVER BASIN COAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Prepared by

**WWC Engineering  
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 the Interior  
Office of Surface Mining  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
Denver, Colorado**

and

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Douglas, Wyoming**

November 2003