

ROCK SPRINGS FIELD OFFICE

NEPA



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WYOMING

1792 (040)
3420

November 20, 2001

SCOPING NOTICE
Bridger Coal Lease by Application
Bridger Coal Company

Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office

Dear Reader:

Bridger Coal Company (Bridger) has notified the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office, that they want to initiate environmental review for a proposed coal Lease by Application (known as the Ten Mile Rim LBA), located in Townships 21 and 22 North, Ranges 100 and 101 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The enclosed document serves as notice of the beginning of the environmental analysis process to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. If you are interested in participating in the process and have concerns, issues, or alternatives you would like to see addressed, please respond with your written comments by December 31, 2001. Send written comments to:

Address: Teri Deakins, Project Manager
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Email: teri_deakins@blm.gov
(please reference Ten Mile Rim LBA in the subject field)

BLM will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, December 12, 2001 at the Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming, at 2:00 p.m. Oral comments will be accepted at that time. Written comments may also be submitted at the meeting or as noted above.

Written comments in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Rock Springs office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday (except federal holidays) after the comment period closes and may be published as part of the environmental process. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or 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.

If you have questions regarding the NEPA process or the project, please contact Teri Deakins at 307-352-0211 or Jeff Clawson at 307-352-0323.

Sincerely,
/s/ Ted Murphy

Scoping Notice

Bridger Coal Bridger Coal Lease by Application Bridger Coal Company

Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office

Description of Project

Bridger Coal Company (Bridger) has notified the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office, that they want to initiate environmental review for a proposed coal Lease by Application (known as the Ten Mile Rim LBA), located in Townships 21 and 22 North, Ranges 100 and 101 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Sweetwater County, Wyoming (see Map). The project area takes in approximately 16,162.78 acres of which 7,054.34 acres are federal surface and minerals, 960 acres are split estate (Federal surface and State of Wyoming minerals) and 8,148.44 acres are private.

The project area is within the administrative boundary of the BLM's Rock Springs Field Office and is located in the north-central part of Sweetwater County, Wyoming. Access to the area is by Interstate Highway 80, State Route 377 County Roads 4-15 and 4-7, and other existing roads.

Bridger proposes to lease Federal coal for a new underground mine adjacent to their existing surface Bridger Mine. The tract includes an estimated 110 million tons of in place coal reserves. According to the application the coal would be required to provide fuel to the nearby Jim Bridger Power Plant for an additional 15 to 20 years. Land ownership in the area is checkerboard, where BLM manages for the Federal government approximately every even numbered section. The Bridger Mine which is adjacent to the Ten Mile Rim LBA Tract has an approved mining and reclamation plan from the Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environment Quality (DEQ) and an approved air quality permit from the Air Quality Division of the Wyoming DEQ. As part of the coal leasing process, BLM will evaluate the tract configuration and may decide to add or subtract Federal coal to avoid bypassing coal or increase estimated Fair Market Value (FMV). Underground access to Ten Mile Rim LBA Tract would be through the existing surface mine. There are no surface facilities proposed to be constructed on the Tract.

Relationship to Land Use Plans

The *Green River Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision* (GRRMP) (1997) allows for coal leasing and development. The GRRMP provides land use guidance for coal leasing within the project area.

[Ten Mile Rim Coal Lease by Application Map](#) (47kb)

The exploration and development project is subject to the appropriate level of environmental analysis. To comply with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations which implement NEPA, BLM is required to conduct an environmental analysis.

Land and Resource Management Issues and Concerns

A BLM interdisciplinary team of resource specialists will be involved in the analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives. Land and resource issues tentatively identified as potentially affected by this action include:

- Playa lakes and wetland areas

- Class III visual resource management area
- BLM sensitive plant and animal species
- Sage grouse leks and nesting habitat
- Raptor nesting habitat
- Listed, proposed for listing, and candidate species
- Mountain plover habitat
- Prairie dog town
- Noise
- Cumulative impacts

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. BLM is requesting the public's help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives for analysis, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigative opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process. BLM encourages your comments. Your comments are due by December 31, 2001. Please submit your comments to:

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 BLM - Rock Springs Field Office
 280 Highway 191 North
 Rock Springs, WY 82901

Email: teri_deakins@blm.gov
 (Please reference Ten Mile Rim in subject field)

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Initial Mailing List

The scoping notice initial mailing distribution includes the following list of agencies, individuals, industries, organizations, and media.

Government Offices

Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office (910, 912, 920, 930)
 Office of the Governor
 U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Wyoming State Clearinghouse
 Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
 Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
 Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Cheyenne, Green River)

Elected and Other Officials

Mayors of Rock Springs, Green River, Superior
 State Senators: Rae Lynn Job, Mark Harris, Tex Boggs
 State Representatives: John Eyre, Stephen Watt, Fred Parady, Bud Nelson, Bill Thompson
 Sweetwater County Commissioners
 Sweetwater County Planner
 Sweetwater County Libraries, Green River, Rock Springs
 U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin, Kate Legerski, Representative
 U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, Lyn Shanaghy, Representative
 U.S. Senator Craig Thomas, Pati Smith, Representative

Oil and Gas Lessees (certified)

ABO Petroleum Corp.

Andex Resources LLC
Barrett Resources Corp
Belco Energy I LP
Big West Oil & Gas Inc.
Camwest
Devon SFS Operating Co.
Emerald Frontier Corp
Infinity Oil & Gas of Wyoming
Kerr-McGee Rocky Mtn. Corp.
Myco Industries Inc.
Questar Exploration & Production Co.
Phillips Petroleum Co.
Rocky Mountain Energy
Sharbro Oil Ltd Co
Tri Continental Res.
Williams Production RMT Co.
Wold Oil Properties Inc.
Yates Drilling Co.
Yates Petroleum Corp

Public Land Users and User Groups

Affected grazing permittees in the Rock Springs Allotment and affected interests
People for the West
Petroleum Association of Wyoming
Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States
Native American Tribes: Eastern Shoshone, Northern Ute, Northern Arapaho, Shoshone-Bannock
Sierra Club, Northern Plains Representative
Southwest Wyoming Industrial Association
Wilderness Society
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
National Wildlife Federation
Wyoming Wildlife Federation
Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Public Lands Council
Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club
Environmental Defense Fund
Biodiversity Associates

Newspapers

Pinedale Roundup
Sublette County Journal
Kemmerer Gazette
Rock Springs Daily Rocket-Miner
Casper Star-Tribune
Green River Star
Wyoming State Journal
Uinta County Herald

Radio Stations

KQSW/KRKK. Rock Springs
KMXX - Rock Springs
KUGR - Green River
KYCS - Rock Springs
KMER - Kemmerer

Television Stations

KTWO-TV - Casper
KCWY-TV - Casper
KFNB-TV - Casper
KGWC-TV - Casper