



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

High Desert District  
Rock Springs Field Office  
280 Highway 191 North  
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901



## Scoping Notice

### **Bridger Coal Lease Modification–WYW154595 Bridger Coal Company**

#### **Description of Project**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rock Springs Field Office (RSFO) has been notified by Bridger Coal Company that it is seeking to modify Coal Lease WYW154595 to support underground mining operations.

The company is proposing a lease modification affecting lands adjacent to the current lease located north of Interstate 80, approximately 35 miles northeast of Rock Springs, Wyoming. If modified, the current lease for federal lands would be expanded to include the west half of section 34, Township 22 North, Range 101 West, (see attached map). The lease modification would add approximately 320 acres to the existing federal lease.

In addition to the federal lease modification (WYW154595) request, the company is proposing to conduct underground coal mining operations on adjacent private lands. The private lease holdings are north, south and east of the proposed lease modification. The lands west of the lease modification are unleased at this time.

Bridger Coal Company operates the Jim Bridger Coal Mine complex which is located in southwestern Wyoming. It is a multi-faceted mining operation which includes surface, underground, and highwall mining methods, along with ongoing reclamation operations. The Jim Bridger Coal Mine complex is a captive operation and has been in production since 1974 providing coal to the adjacent Jim Bridger Power Plant. If approved, the lease modification project would serve growing industrial, commercial, and residential electrical production needs in the region.

#### **Relationship to Land Use Plans**

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

### **Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

The coal lease modification is subject to the appropriate level of environmental analysis. To comply with NEPA and the Council of Environmental Quality regulations, which implement NEPA, the 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 proposed action include: cultural resources, oil and gas, other leases, visual resource management, climate change, socioeconomics, and air quality.

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, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Written substantive scoping comments should be received by May 2, 2012 and may be submitted via facsimile, email, mail, or hand-delivery during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) to:

Jeff Clawson, Mining Engineer  
Bridger Coal Lease Modification–WYW154595  
BLM Rock Springs Field Office  
280 Highway 191 North  
Rock Springs, WY 82901  
Facsimile: 307-352-0218  
Email: [BLM\\_WY\\_Bridger\\_Coal\\_WYW154595\\_EA@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_WY_Bridger_Coal_WYW154595_EA@blm.gov)  
Please list "Bridger Coal Lease Modification WYW154595" in the subject line.