

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office

Bridger Coal Lease Modification: WYW2727

Case File No.: WYW2727 and WYW167727

EA Number: WY-040-EA10-30

Proposed Action Title: Bridger Coal Lease Modification to WYW2727

Proposed Action Type and Location: To modify the existing federal coal lease WYW2727 to include parcels of unleased federal coal lands situated within Sections 12 and 24, Township 20 North, Range 100 West; and to obtain a right-of-way to conduct surface operations in Section 36, Township 20 North, Range 100 West.

Applicant: Bridger Coal Company
C/o Interwest Mining Company
1407 West North Temple, Suite 310
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

BACKGROUND

The proposed action is to modify federal coal lease WYW2727 to include 560 acres of contiguous coal lands in Sections 12 and 24 and to be granted a right-of-way to conduct surface operations in Section 36, Township 20 North, Range 100 West. The lands in section 36 are split estate, with the State of Wyoming owning the subsurface estate and the surface estate federally owned and managed by the BLM.

Federal coal lease WYW2727 was originally issued on October 1, 1969, and readjusted effective October 1, 1999. This lease modification does not exceed the modified acreage limitation of 960 acres as set forth with the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; therefore, a revision of the existing Mining and Reclamation Plan for the Jim Bridger Coal Mine is not required.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

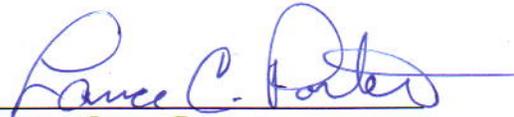
Based upon the information contained in the attached environmental assessment, 'Bridger Coal Lease Modification: WYW2727', and all other information available to me, it is my determination that: (1) the implementation of the Proposed Action will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the Green River Resource Management Plan (GRRMP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ; (2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the GRRMP; and (3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA or as articulated in the letters of comment.

The Proposed Action has been designed to avoid or minimize environmental impacts to the extent feasible. The following mitigations measured have been identified for the proposed action:

- Air Quality
 - Bridger Coal Company will operate a water truck, as needed, to control fugitive dust within its control.
- Cultural
 - The identified paleontological, archaeological, and cultural resources shall be preserved or mitigated in conformance with Bridger Coal Company's existing Memorandum of Agreement that is part of the existing mining operations.
 - A 75 foot avoidance area around the existing prehistoric site identified in the project area has been established through Native American consultations.
- Grazing
 - Appropriate fencing around the expanded lease area will ensure livestock are not impacted by the surface mining activities. Additionally, appropriate reclamation will be completed after mining and the allotted AUMs will remain unchanged.
- Riparian Wetlands
 - In order to avoid anticipated impacts to riparian wetlands, Bridger Coal Company will prevent any surface disturbance within 500 feet of the edge of the riparian area associated with Ten Mile Draw in Section 12. Also, the company will provide for the prevention of direct runoff from the mining operations into this drainage or take measures to filter sediment.
- Wildlife
 - The approved Mining and Reclamation Plan includes plans for the return of vegetation suitable for winter range habitat.
 - Bridger Coal Company has an existing plan in place for raptor monitoring and mitigation as part of its existing operations. This existing plan will continue for the lease modification area.

Authorized Official:



Lance Porter
Field Manager
Rock Springs Field Office

28 July 2010
Date