

EIS

Final
Environmental Impact Statement

PIT 14
Coal Lease-by-Application
(Federal Coal Lease Application WYW-160394)

November 2006

Wyoming State Office - Rock Springs Field Office



MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

In Reply Refer To:

3425 (LBA)
(922Love)
WYW160394
Phone No: 307-775-6258
Fax No: 307-775-6203

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document and disclose the results of an analysis to lease the Pit 14 federal coal tract to Black Butte Coal Company to conduct further surface mining operations at the Black Butte Coal Mine in Sweetwater County, Wyoming. A copy of this document is provided for your review and comment. The Final EIS is available on the internet at <http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/rsfodocs/pit14/index.htm>. Copies of the document are also available at the following BLM Offices:

BLM
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

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

The Draft EIS was published in March 2005 and a formal public hearing on the application to lease the tract of federal coal was held in Rock Springs, Wyoming, on May 10, 2006. The purpose of the public hearing was to receive comments on the EIS, on the fair market value, and on the maximum economic recovery of the federal coal resource. Two individuals presented comments on the analysis at the public hearing and six comment letters were received by the BLM on the Draft EIS. These comments are included as part of this analysis in Appendix L.

The BLM will accept comments on the Final EIS for thirty (30) days from the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register*. The BLM anticipates EPA will publish the NOA on November 17, 2006. Press releases will be submitted to local and state media outlets once the notice is published to notify the public of the final date comments will be accepted. The BLM is also publishing a NOA in the *Federal Register*.

If you wish to comment on the Final EIS, your comments should relate directly to the document. The BLM requests that comments be as specific as possible and that you cite the section or sections of the document on which you are basing your comments. Substantive comments should:

1. Give any new information that could alter conclusions;
2. Show why or how the analysis or assumptions used 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 decision-making process.

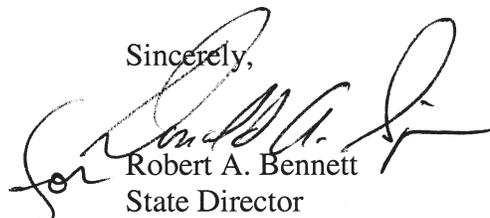
The Final EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable regulations, and other applicable statutes, to address the possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could result from this project. The Final EIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and agency decision makers of the impacts of leasing a tract of federal coal to the adjacent, existing mine in southwest Wyoming and to evaluate alternative to leasing the coal.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents will be made available for public review at the address listed below during regular business hours (7:45am to 4:30pm), 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 predominantly at the beginning of your written comment. 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 BLM, Rock Springs Field Office, Attn: Pit 14 project, 280 Highway 191, Rock Springs WY 82901. Written comments may also be emailed to Pit_14_LBA_WYMail@blm.gov. Email comments must include the name and mailing address of the commenter to receive consideration. Written comments can be faxed to 307-352-0328.

If you have questions regarding the project, please phone Joanna Nara-Kloepper at 307-352-0321.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Bennett
State Director

Attachment

1 – Final EIS