Bureau of Land Management, Interior

(2) The regional coal team may adjust the tract ranking and select tracts to reflect considerations including:
   (i) The compatibility of coal quality, coal type and market needs;
   (ii) Environmental and socio-economic impacts;
   (iii) The compatibility of reserve size and demand distribution for tracts;
   (iv) Public opinion;
   (v) Avoidance of future emergency lease situations; and
   (vi) Special leasing opportunity requirements.

(c) After tract ranking and selection, a regional lease sale environmental impact statement on all tract combinations selected by the regional coal team for the various leasing levels and all other reasonable alternative leasing levels shall be prepared by the Bureau of Land Management in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. The statement shall consider both:
   (1) The site-specific potential environmental impacts of each tract being considered for lease sale; and
   (2) The intraregional cumulative environmental impacts of the proposed leasing action and alternatives, and other coal and noncoal development activities.

(d) The results of the ranking and selection process, including the tract rankings, the tract selected and the list of ranking criteria used shall be published in the regional lease sale environmental impact statement required by paragraph (c) of this section. Detailed information on each of the tracts shall be available for inspection in the Bureau of Land Management State offices that have jurisdiction over lands within the coal production region (See 43 CFR subpart 1821). BLM will publish a notice in the Federal Register of the 60-day comment period and the public hearing on the draft environmental impact statement. BLM will also publish the notice at least once per week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the sale.

(e) Public hearings shall be held in the region following the release of the draft regional lease sale environmental impact statement to announce and discuss the results of the ranking and selection process and the potential impacts, including proposed mitigation measures.

(f) When the comment period on the draft environmental impact statement closes, the regional coal team will analyze the comments and make any appropriate revisions in the tract ranking and selection. The final regional lease sale environmental impact statement will reflect such revisions and will include all comments received.

(g) When BLM completes and releases the final regional lease sale environmental impact statement, the regional coal team will meet and recommend specific tracts for lease sale and a lease sale schedule. The regional coal team will provide notice in the Federal Register of the date and location at least 45 days before its meeting. The chairperson shall submit the recommendations to the Director. Any disagreement as to the recommendation among the team shall be documented and submitted by the chairperson along with the team recommendation. The Director shall submit the final regional environmental impact statement to the Secretary for his/her decision, together with the recommendation of the team and any recommendations the Director may wish to make.

(h) The tract ranking, selection and scheduling process and the regional lease sale environmental impact statement shall be revised or repeated as needed. The Secretary may, in consultation with the Governor(s) of the affected State(s) and surface management agencies, initiate or postpone the process to respond to considerations such as major land use planning updates, new tract delineations or increases or decreases in the leasing levels.

statement, and prior to adopting a regional lease sale schedule, the Secretary shall engage in formal consultation as specified in §§3420.4–2 through 3420.4–5 of this title.

§3420.4–2 Consultation with surface management agencies.

(a) The Secretary, for any proposed lease tract containing lands the surface of which is under the jurisdiction of any agency other than the Department of the Interior, shall request that the agency: (1) Consent, if it has not already done so, to the issuance of the lease (43 CFR 3400.3–1), and (2) if it consents, prescribe the terms and conditions the Secretary will impose in any lease which the head of the agency requires for the use and protection of the non-mineral interests in those lands.

(b) The Secretary may prescribe additional terms and conditions that are consistent with the terms proposed by the surface management agency to protect the interest of the United States and to safeguard the public welfare.

§3420.4–3 Consultation with Governors.

(a) The Secretary shall consult the Governor of the state in which any tract proposed for sale is located. The Secretary shall give the Governor 30 days to comment before adopting a regional lease sale schedule or, for lease applications, before publishing a notice of sale for any tract within the State.

(b) When a tract proposed for lease sale within the boundaries of a National Forest would, if leased, be mined by surface mining methods, the Governor of the state in which the land to be leased is located shall be so notified by the Secretary. If the Governor fails to object to the lease sale proposal in 60 days, the Secretary may publish a notice of sale for that tract. If, within the 60 day period, the Governor, in writing, objects to the lease sale proposal, the Secretary may not publish a notice of sale for that tract. Publication of the notice of sale shall be held in abeyance for 6 months from the date that the Governor objects. The Governor may, during this six-month period, submit a written statement of reasons why the tract should not be proposed for lease sale, and the Secretary shall, on the basis of this statement, reconsider the lease sale proposal.

(c) Before determining whether to conduct a lease sale, the Secretary shall seek the recommendation of the Governor of the State(s) in which the lands proposed to be offered for lease are located as to whether or not to lease such lands and what alternative actions are available and what special conditions could be added to the proposed lease(s) to mitigate impacts. The Secretary shall accept the recommendations of the Governor(s) if he determines that they provide for a reasonable balance between the national interest and the State’s interests. The Secretary shall communicate to the Governor(s) in writing and publish in the Federal Register the reasons for his determination to accept or reject such Governor’s recommendations.

§3420.4–4 Consultation with Indian tribes.

The Secretary shall consult with any Indian tribe which may be affected by the adoption of the proposed regional lease sale schedule. The Secretary shall give the tribe 30 days in which to comment prior to adopting a lease sale schedule.

§3420.4–5 Consultation with the Attorney General.

The Secretary shall consult with and give due consideration to the advice of the Attorney General before the adoption of the proposed regional lease sale schedule. The Secretary shall provide 30 days in which the Attorney General may advise the Secretary prior to adopting a lease sale schedule.