

coal resources in said tract will result in a competitive lease sale to be held at a time and place to be announced through publication pursuant to 43 CFR 3422.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Coteau Properties Company is the lessee and operator of Coal Lease NDM 071813 at the Freedom Mine. The entire area included within this lease application lies within the Freedom Mine NACT 9501 permit area.

On November 3, 1994, The Coteau Properties Company received Federal Coal Exploration License NDM 83356 from the BLM to conduct drilling on lands contained within the Coteau Properties coal lease application tract.

The area applied for would be mined as an extension of the Freedom Mine and would utilize the same methods as those currently being used. The lease being applied for can extend the life of the mine by about 4 months and enable recovery of coal that might never be mined if not mined as a logical extension of current pits.

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY:** The application is available for review between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana 59101, and at the Bureau of Land Management, Dakotas District Office, whose address is 2033 Third Avenue West, Dickinson, North Dakota 58601-2619, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ed Hughes, telephone 406-255-2830, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

Dated: September 24, 1996.

Francis R. Cherry, Jr.,

*Acting State Director.*

[FR Doc. 96-25447 Filed 10-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

[MT-921-06-1320-01-P; NDM 85537]

**Notice of Coal Lease Application—  
NDM 85537 Acquired—The Coteau  
Properties Company**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This is Notice of The Coteau Properties Company's Coal Lease Application NDM 85537 Acquired for certain coal resources within the Fort Union Coal Region.

The land included in Coal Lease Application NDM 85537 Acquired is

located in Mercer County, North Dakota, and is described as follows:

T. 146 N., R. 87 W., 5th P.M.

Sec. 31: NE¼

The 160.00-acre tract contains an estimated 1 million tons of recoverable coal reserves.

Pursuant to Public Law 760 of September 6, 1950 (7 U.S.C. 1033-1039), all mineral interests owned by the United States which were reserved or acquired under programs administered by the Governmental agencies mentioned therein, and which were not disposed of by the Secretary of Agriculture, were transferred to the Department of the Interior, after September 6, 1957, for administration under the mineral laws. A quitclaim deed, identified as FFM-ND-1145, dated September 6, 1957, was received from the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation, transferring 50 percent mineral interests in the aforementioned lands.

The application will be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947, (61 Stat. 913, 30 U.S.C. 351-359), and the implementing regulations at 43 CFR 3400. A decision to allow leasing of the coal resources in said tract will result in a competitive lease sale to be held at a time and place to be announced through publication pursuant to 43 CFR 3422.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Coteau Properties Company is the lessee and operator of Coal Lease NDM 071813 at the Freedom Mine. The entire area included within this lease application lies within the Freedom Mine NACT 9501 permit area.

On November 3, 1994, The Coteau Properties Company received Federal Coal Exploration License NDM 83357 from the BLM to conduct drilling on lands contained within the Coteau Properties coal lease application tract.

The area applied for would be mined as an extension of the Freedom Mine and would utilize the same methods as those currently being used. The lease being applied for can extend the life of the mine by about 1 month and enable recovery of coal that might never be mined if not mined as a logical extension of current pits.

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY:** The application is available for review between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana 59101, and at the Bureau of Land Management, Dakotas District Office, whose address is 2033 Third Avenue West, Dickinson, North Dakota 58601-2619, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ed Hughes telephone 406-255-2830, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

Dated: September 24, 1996.

Francis R. Cherry, Jr.,

*Acting State Director.*

[FR Doc. 96-25448 Filed 10-3-96; 8:45 am]

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[UT-060-06-1310-00]

**Notice of Availability of Draft Price  
Coalbed Methane Environmental  
Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Draft Price Coalbed Methane Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared for the Price Coalbed Methane Project and is available for distribution to the public.

River Gas Corporation of Northport, Alabama proposes to develop a coalbed methane (CBM) gas production field in Carbon and Emery Counties, Utah. The proposed project would involve the construction (wellpads), drilling, and completion/stimulation of 601 CBM gas wells and associated access roads, pipelines, and electrical distribution lines over approximately a 10-year period within an approximately 290-square mile project area. Life of project would be approximately 30 years. A maximum of four CBM gas wells per square mile (160-acre spacing) would be developed on leased acreage (Federal, state, and private) in accordance with procedures and guidelines of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Copies of the DEIS will be available at libraries in Moab, Price, and Castle Dale, Utah. Copies will also be available from the Moab District Office, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532, the Price BLM Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, Utah 84501, and the BLM Utah State Office, 324 South State, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84105-0155.

**DATES:** Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted for a period of 45 days following Federal Register publication of the Notice of Availability by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The anticipated date of EPA Federal Register publication is October 18, 1996. Comments must therefore be