

There is no other source of the information, and failure to provide the information is grounds for terminating the contract.

Based on past experience in administering previous helium distribution contracts, BLM estimates that there will be approximately 10 respondents annually and that it will take each respondent an average of approximately 30 minutes to supply the requested information. This includes a range of from 15 minutes to 2 hours. The frequency of response is quarterly. The estimated total annual burden is 20 hours. These numbers may change as BLM gains experience in administering Act and the new contract.

Any interested member of the public may obtain a copy of the proposed contract, without charge, by contacting the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

BLM will summarize and include all responses to this notice in the request for approval to the Office of Management and Budget. All comments will also become part of the public record.

Dated: August 26, 1997.

Carole Smith,

Bureau of Land Management, Information Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-23052 Filed 8-28-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-01; N-16095]

Determination Regarding Opening of Nellis Air Force Range Withdrawn Lands to Mineral Exploration and Development; NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 12 of Pub. L. 99-606, as amended by Pub. L. 100-338 in 1988, the Nevada State Director has determined, after conferring with the Commander, Nellis Air Force Base, that no withdrawn lands within the Nellis Air Force Range are suitable to opening for operation under the Mining Law of 1872, The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947, the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, or any one or more of such Acts. The Nellis Air Force Range is used as high hazard tactical and weapons training area and is closed to the public. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mike Dwyer, District Manager, Bureau

of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 West Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Military Lands Withdrawal Action of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-606), as amended, provided for the withdrawal of lands for military purposes in four states, including 2,209,326 acres in Clark, Lincoln, and Nye Counties of Nevada for the Nellis Air Force Range (See 53 FR 25694-25696 July 8, 1988, for the legal description of the affected lands). Section 12(a) requires that the Secretary of the Interior, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the appropriate military department, determine which, if any, of the withdrawn lands may be considered for opening to operation under the Mining Law of 1872, the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947, the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, or any one or more of such Acts. The Department of the Air Force has closed the Nellis Air Force Range from public access. The intent of the closure is threefold: to protect the public from injury due to ordnance hazards; to ensure that national security is not compromised; and to ensure that military programs can be conducted without disruption. Therefore, it has been determined that no withdrawn lands within Nellis Air Force Range are suitable to opening for mineral exploration and development.

Dated: August 14, 1997.

Jean Rivers-Council,

Associate State Director, Nevada.

[FR Doc. 97-22998 Filed 8-28-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[(WY-060-1620-01), WYW136142, WYW136458]

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Public Hearing on Two Separate Coal Lease Applications for Federal Coal in the Decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) pursuant to 40 CFR 1500-1508 for the Powder River (WYW136142) and Thundercloud (WYW136458) Coal Lease Applications

in the Wyoming Powder River Basin, and announces the scheduled date and place for a public hearing pursuant to 43 CFR 3425.4. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the DEIS, and on the fair market value, the maximum economic recovery, and the proposed separate competitive sales of coal from the two tracts. The Powder River tract is being considered for sale as a result of a coal lease application received from Powder River Coal Company on March 23, 1995 (WYW136142), for approximately 4,020 acres containing approximately 515 million tons of coal in an area adjacent to the company's North Antelope and Rochelle Mines in Campbell County, Wyoming. The Thundercloud tract is being considered for sale as a result of a coal lease application received from Kerr-McGee Coal Corporation on April 14, 1995 (WYW136458), for approximately 3,400 acres containing approximately 427 million tons of coal in an area adjacent to the company's Jacobs Ranch Mine in Campbell County, Wyoming. The two application areas are about 9 miles apart.

DATES: A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8, 1997, at the Holiday Inn, 2009 S. Douglas Highway, Gillette, Wyoming. An open house will start at 6:30 p.m., prior to the hearing, to answer questions related to the Lease by Application (LBA) process and these coal lease applications. The DEIS is scheduled to be available to the public on August 22, 1997. In order to assure that comments are considered in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, they should be postmarked no later than October 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Please address questions, comments or requests for copies of the DEIS to the Casper District Office, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 1701 East E Street, Casper, Wyoming 82601, or FAX them to 307-234-1525.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Doelger or Mike Karbs at the above address, or phone: 307-261-7600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Both applications were filed as maintenance tract LBAs under the provisions of 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3425.1.

On March 23, 1995, Powder River Coal Company filed a coal lease application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a maintenance tract LBA for the following lands, which contain an estimated 515 million tons of Federal coal:

T. 41 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming
Section 6: Lots 10 thru 13, and 18 thru 21;
Section 7: Lots 6, 11, 14, and 19;