

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[CO-933-98-1320-01; COC 60941]

**Notice of Coal Lease Offering By Sealed Bid; COC 60941**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of competitive coal lease sale.

**SUMMARY:** Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, Lakewood, Colorado, hereby gives notice that certain coal resources in the lands hereinafter described in La Plata County, Colorado, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

**DATES:** The lease sale will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, March 30, 1998. Sealed bids must be submitted no later than 10 a.m., Monday, March 30, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The lease sale will be held in the Conference Room, Fourth Floor, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Cashier, First Floor, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Purvis at (303) 239-3795.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder submitting the highest offer, provided that the high bid meets the fair market value determination of the coal resource. The minimum bid for this tract is \$100 per acre or fraction thereof. No bid less than \$100 per acre or fraction thereof will be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value.

Sealed bids received after the time specified above will not be considered.

In the event identical high sealed bids are received, the tying high bidders will be requested to submit follow-up bids until a high bid is received. All tie-breaking sealed bids must be submitted within 15 minutes following the Sale Official's announcement at the sale that identical high bids have been received.

Fair market value will be determined by the authorized officer after the sale.

**Coal Offered:** The coal resource to be offered is limited to coal recoverable by underground mining methods on the Upper Menefee seam on the 7 South Mains Tract in the following lands:

T. 34 N., R. 11 W., N.M.P.M.  
sec. 6, lots 1 to 5, inclusive, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

containing 194.79 acres.

The recoverable reserves have been adjusted from 646,000 tons down to 624,100 tons to account for coal purchased within a mineral right-of-way by National King Coal, LLC. The underground minable coal is ranked as high volatile B bituminous coal. The estimated coal quality for the Upper Menefee seam on an as-received bases is as follows:

Btu—12,300 Btu/lb.  
Moisture—5.60%  
Sulfur Content—0.67%  
Ash Content—10.64%

**Rental and Royalty**

The lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3.00 per acre or fraction thereof and a royalty payable to the United States of 8 percent of the value of coal mined by underground methods. The value of the coal will be determined in accordance with 30 CFR 206.

**Notice of Availability**

Bidding instruction for the offered tract are included in the Detailed Statement of Coal Lease Sale. Copies of the statement and the proposed coal lease are available upon request in person or by mail from the Colorado State Office at the address given above. The case file is available for inspection in the Public Room, Colorado State Office, during normal business hours at the address given above.

Dated: February 13, 1998.

**Karen Purvis,**

*Solid Minerals Team Resource Services.*

[FR Doc. 98-4422 Filed 2-20-98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JB-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[MT-921-08-1320-01; MTM 80697]

**Notice of Hearing**

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, April 3, 1998, in the conference room on the Sixth Floor of the Granite Tower Building, Bureau of Land Management, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana 59107.

Western Energy Company has requested the Bureau of Land Management to reschedule a coal lease sale for Coal Lease Application MTM 80697. The Bureau of Land Management requests additional public comments on the fair market value and maximum economic recovery of certain coal

resources it proposes to re-offer for a competitive lease sale. A Decision Record was signed on May 16, 1995, which allows for coal leasing.

The land included in Coal Lease Application MTM 80697 is located in Rosebud County, Montana, and is described as follows:

T. 1 N., R. 39 E., P.M.M.  
Sec. 2: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
T. 1 N., R. 40 E., P.M.M.  
Sec. 6: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$   
Sec. 8: E $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 14: S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
T. 2 N., R. 40 E., P.M.M.  
Sec. 32: All 2,061 acres

**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.

**Randy D. Heuscher,**

*Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.*

Dated: February 17, 1998.

[FR Doc. 98-4465 Filed 2-20-98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[WY-921-1430-01; WYW 134662]

**Public Land Order No. 7312; Withdrawal of Public Land for the Protection of Arabis Pusilla Plant Habitat; Wyoming**

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

**ACTION:** Public land order.

**SUMMARY:** This order withdraws 1,020 acres of public land from surface entry and mining for a period of 50 years to protect *Arabis pusilla* (small rockcress) plant habitat. The land has been and will remain open to mineral leasing.  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 23, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janet Booth, BLM Wyoming State Office, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, 307-775-6124.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. Subject to valid existing rights, the following described public land is hereby withdrawn from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2 (1994)), but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws, for the Bureau of Land Management to protect *Arabis pusilla* plant habitat: