

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management****[WY-920-00-1320-EL, WYW141435]****Horse Creek Tract, Wyoming****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of competitive coal lease sale.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that certain coal resources in the Horse Creek Tract described below in Campbell and Converse Counties, Wyoming, 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 2 p.m., on Thursday, September 7, 2000. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 4 p.m., on Wednesday, September 6, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The lease sale will be held in the First Floor Conference Room (Room 107) of the BLM, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Cashier, BLM, Wyoming State Office, at the address given above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mavis Love, Land Law Examiner, or Melvin Schlagel, Coal Coordinator, at (307) 775-6258 and (307) 775-6257, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This coal lease sale is being held in response to a lease by application (LBA) filed by Antelope Coal Company of Gillette, Wyoming. The coal resources to be offered consist of all reserves recoverable by surface mining methods in the following-described lands located on the border of Campbell and Converse Counties, approximately 20 miles southeast of Wright, Wyoming:

T. 41 N., R. 71 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming  
 Sec. 14: Lots 5, 6, 7 (W2), 10-15;  
 Sec. 15: Lots 6-11, 14-16;  
 Sec. 22: Lots 1, 3-6, 9-13;  
 Sec. 23: Lots 2-7, 10-16;  
 Sec. 25: Lots 11, 12 (S2);  
 Sec. 26: Lots 1-8, 12, 13;  
 Sec. 27: Lots 1-3, 5, 12-14, 16;  
 Sec. 34: Lots 1, 7-10, 16;  
 Sec. 35: Lots 8-10.

Containing 2,818.695 acres.

All of the acreage offered has been determined to be suitable for mining except for areas located within 100 feet of the main railroad right-of-way along the tract's eastern edge. The surface estate of the tract is controlled by Antelope Coal Company and a private

owner. There are no oil and gas wells on the tract.

The tract is adjacent to the Antelope mine and contains surface minable coal reserves in two primary seams currently being recovered in this mine. The Anderson seam averages about 39 feet thick and the Canyon seam averages about 33 feet thick on the LBA. The Anderson has a split averaging just over 5 feet thick in small portions of the LBA and the Canyon has two splits averaging just over 12 and 17 feet thick in small portions of the LBA. The overburden above the main seams is up to 300 feet thick on the LBA along the northern boundary with the Anderson seam outcropping along Antelope Creek. Interburden between the primary seams ranges between 25-90 feet thick.

The Horse Creek LBA coal is ranked as subbituminous C. The overall average quality of the in-place reserves is 8890 BTU/lb, 26.83% moisture, 4.28% ash, 0.22% sulfur, and 1.49% sodium in the ash. These quality averages place the coal reserves at the high end of the range of coal quality currently being mined in the southern Powder River Basin south of Wright, Wyoming.

The tract contains an estimated 275,577,000 tons of minable coal in the Anderson and Canyon seams. This estimate of reserves includes the splits off the main seams mentioned above but does not include any tonnage from localized seams or splits containing less than 5 feet of coal. Potential bidders must reduce this estimate to account for mining losses associated with multiple seam recovery. In addition, coal reserves along the eastern boundary of the tract within 100 feet of the railroad right-of-way have been excluded from the minable reserves.

Finally, the approved mine plan for the Antelope mine avoids disturbing the Antelope Creek Valley, so any coal resources beneath Antelope Creek have been excluded. The cumulative stripping ratio for the minable reserves is approximately 2.6:1 (BCY/Ton) which includes overburden and interburden.

The tract in this lease offering contains split estate lands. There are qualified surface owners as defined in the regulations at 43 CFR 3400.0-5. Consent granted by the qualified surface owners has been filed with and verified by the Bureau of Land Management. The lands included in the consent are shown below:

T. 41 N., R. 71 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming  
 Sec. 14: Lots 5, 6, 7(W2), 11-14;  
 Sec. 15: Lots 6-11, 14-16;  
 Sec. 22: Lots 4-6, 10, 11;  
 Sec. 23: Lots 3-6.

Containing 999.945 acres more or less.

The purchase price of the consent is set out in Exhibit B, Agreement for the Purchase and Sale of Real Estate, attached to the Qualified Surface Owner Consent document.

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid equals the fair market value of the tract and other applicable requirements are met. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The bids should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or be hand delivered. The Cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after 4 p.m., on Wednesday, September 6, 2000, will not be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value of the tract will be determined by the Authorized Officer after the sale.

The lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3 per acre, or fraction thereof, and of a royalty payment to the United States of 12.5 percent of the value of coal produced by strip or auger mining methods and 8 percent of the value of the coal produced by underground mining methods. The value of the coal will be determined in accordance with 30 CFR 206.250.

Bidding instructions for the tract offered and the terms and conditions of the proposed coal lease are available from the BLM, Wyoming State Office at the addresses above. Case file documents, WYW141435, are available for inspection at the BLM, Wyoming State Office.

Dated: August 3, 2000.

**Alan Rabinoff,**

*Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-22-U**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management****[AZ-020-00-1430-ES; AZA-31324]****Notice of Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification: Arizona****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The following public lands, are located in Maricopa County, Arizona have been examined, and found suitable for lease or conveyance under the

provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869, *et seq.*) The lands are not needed for Federal purposes. Lease or conveyance is consistent with current Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land use planning and would be in the public interest.

America's Buffalo Soldiers Re-enactors Association proposes to use the lands for an educational facility.

#### **Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona**

T.2 N., R.4 W.

Sec. 1, lots 1 thru 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$

Containing approximately 320.22 acres.

The lease or conveyance would be subject to the following terms, conditions and reservations:

1. Provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and all applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

2. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals.

3. A right-of-way for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Hector Abrego at the Phoenix Field Office, 2015 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027; (623) 580-5674.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the lands will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease or conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this Notice, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed lease, conveyance or classification of the lands to the Field Manager, Phoenix Field Office, 2015 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027.

#### **Classification Comments**

Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for an educational facility. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

#### **Application Comments**

Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of

development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for an educational facility.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification will become effective 60 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: August 2, 2000.

**MarLynn Spears,**

*Assistant Field Manager, Lands & Minerals.*

[FR Doc. 00-20367 Filed 8-10-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-02-M**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Land Management**

**[NM-030-1430-EU; NMNM24542: NMNM104097]**

#### **Notice of Realty Action (NORA); Notice of Termination of Recreation and Public Purposes Classification, Opening Order, and Direct Sale of Public Lane: New Mexico**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice terminates Recreation and Public Purposes Classification (R&PP) NMNM 24542 in its entirety and opens the surface and mineral estate to entry for direct sale pursuant to sections 203 and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713, 1719).

**DATES:** Termination of the Classification is effective upon publication of this notice. The land will be open to entry at 8 a.m. on September 25, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** BLM, Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005-3371.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Sanders, Supervisory Multi-Resource Specialist, (505) 525-4373.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** the original R&PP Lease was issued on December 31, 1975, to Our Lady's Youth Center. The lease terminated on June 10, 1997. Our Lady's Youth Center was afforded the opportunity to purchase the surface and mineral estate at fair market value. A NORA was published in the **Federal Register** on May 24, 1999 (Volume 64, Number 99, Pages 28006-7) announcing the suitability of the land for direct sale, at no less than fair market value. The land is described as follows:

#### **New Mexico Principal Meridian**

T. 25 S., R. 3 E.,

Sec. 13, S $\frac{1}{2}$

Containing 320.00 acres, more or less.

The sale is in conformance with the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment. The land will continue to be used as part of Our Lady's Youth Center located on the adjacent private land. The disposal/classification is consistent with the Bureau's planning efforts, State and local government programs, and applicable regulations.

The land has been examined and found suitable for disposal by direct sale pursuant to sections 203 and 209 of FLPMA of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713, 1716). The direct sale will be subject to:

1. A reservation to the United States of right-of-way for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States in accordance with the Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

Interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed direct sale or termination of the R&PP Classification to the BLM Las Cruces field Office Manager, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, NM 88005-3371. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the BLM Las Cruces Field Office Manager at the above address, who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action. In the absence of any adverse comments, this realty action becomes the final determination of the Department of the Interior.

Dated: August 4, 2000.

**Amy L. Lueders,**

*Field Manager, Las Cruces.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-VC-M**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Minerals Management Service**

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of a revision to a currently approved information collection (OMB Control Number 1010-0071).

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are submitting to OMB for review and approval an information collection request (ICR), titled "30 CFR Part 203, Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates." We are also soliciting comments from the public on this ICR.