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Alan Rabinoff,

Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-020-01-1310-EI]

Notice of Intent To Prepare Planning Analyses/Environmental Assessments

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare planning analyses/environmental assessments.

SUMMARY: The Jackson Field Office, Eastern States will prepare Planning Analyses/Environmental Assessments (PA/EA) to consider leasing scattered tracts of Federal mineral estate for oil and gas exploration and development. This notice is issued pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1501.7 and Title 43 CFR 1610.2(c). The planning effort will follow the procedures set forth in Title 43 CFR part 1600. The public is invited to participate in this planning process, beginning with the identification of planning issues and criteria.

DATES: Comments relating to the identification of planning issues and criteria will be accepted for 30 days from the date of this publication.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Jackson Field Office, 411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404, Jackson, MS 39206.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Reiss, Lead for PA/EA, Jackson Field Office, (601-977-5400).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM has responsibility to consider nominations to lease Federal mineral estate for oil and gas exploration and development. An interdisciplinary team will be used in the preparation of the PA/EAs. Preliminary issues, subject to change as a result of public input, are (1) potential impacts of oil and gas exploration and development on the surface resources and (2) consideration of restrictions on lease rights to protect surface resources. The number of separate analyses that will be prepared for the tracts will depend on their proximity to each other. Tract locations, along with acreage, are listed below.

Alabama, Clarke County, St. Stephens Meridian

T 6 N, R 3 E—Section 4:
W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

T 9 N, R 1 E—Section 31: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Alabama, Conecuh and Monroe Counties, St. Stephens Meridian

T 6 N, R 8 E—Section 34: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

T 6 N, R 9 E—Section 19:
S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Alabama, Lamar County, Huntsville Meridian

T 16 S, R 16 W—Section 5: N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 11: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 20: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Alabama, St. Clair County, Huntsville Meridian

T 13 S, R 4 E—Section 24: E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$, Section 25: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Arkansas, Ouachita County, 5th Meridian

T 15 S, R 14 W—Section 31:
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T 15 S, R 15 W—Section 23:
S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ W $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

T 16 S, R 14 W—Section 4:
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Arkansas, Yell County, 5th Meridian

T 5 N, R 23 W—Section 18:
N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

T 5 N, R 24 W—Section 13: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Louisiana, East Carroll Parish, Louisiana Meridian

T 18 N, R 13 W—Sections 41, 42, 43, 46, 47, 48, 50 51, 52

Louisiana, Webster Parish, Louisiana Meridian

T 19 N, R 8 W—Section 22:
E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Due to the limited scope of this PA/EA process, public meetings are not scheduled.

Bruce E. Dawson,

Field Manager, Jackson Field Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1320-EL; WYW150210, WYW150318, WYW151134, WYW151643, & WYW154001]

Federal Coal, Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Scoping

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on four maintenance lease applications received for five Federal coal tracts in the decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming, and Notice of Scoping.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received the

following competitive coal lease applications:

1. On March 10, 2000, Powder River Coal Company applied for a maintenance coal lease for approximately 4,500 acres (approximately 564 million recoverable tons of coal) in two tracts adjacent to the North Antelope/Rochelle Mine Complex in Campbell County, WY. The tracts, which are referred to as the NARO North Lease by Application (LBA) Tract and the NARO South LBA Tract, were assigned case numbers WYW150210 and WYW154001, respectively.

2. On March 23, 2000, Ark Land Company applied for a maintenance coal lease for approximately 2,799.5 acres (approximately 383.6 million in-place tons of coal) adjacent to the Black Thunder Mine in Campbell County, WY. The tract, which is referred to as the Little Thunder LBA Tract, was assigned case number WYW150318. On June 14, 2001, Ark Land Company filed an application to modify the Little Thunder LBA Tract. As currently filed, the tract includes approximately 3,449.317 acres and 440 million tons of recoverable coal reserves.

3. On July 28, 2000, Triton Coal Company applied for a maintenance coal lease for approximately 1,868 acres (approximately 173.2 million in-place tons of coal) adjacent to the North Rochelle Mine in Campbell County, WY. The tract, which is referred to as the West Roundup LBA Tract, was assigned case number WYW151134.

4. On September 12, 2000, Antelope Coal Company applied for a maintenance coal lease for approximately 3,500 acres (approximately 292.5 million in-place tons of coal) adjacent to the Antelope Mine in Campbell and Converse Counties, WY. The tract, which is referred to as the West Antelope LBA Tract, was assigned case number WYW151643. On June 27, 2001, Antelope Coal Company filed an application to modify the West Antelope LBA Tract. As currently filed, the tract includes approximately 3,542 acres and 293.9 million tons of in place coal reserves.

The tracts were applied for as maintenance tract LBAs under the provisions of 43 CFR 3425.1. The Powder River Regional Coal Team (RCT) reviewed these lease applications at a public meeting held on October 25, 2000, in Cheyenne, WY. The RCT recommended that BLM process these four lease applications. As part of the LBA process, BLM will prepare an environmental analysis in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA),