

Comments should be sent to the BLM, Montana State Office, at the above address, and should speak to, but not necessarily be limited to, the following information:

1. The quality of the coal resource;
2. The quantity of coal;
3. The mining method or methods which would achieve maximum economic recovery of the coal, including specification of seams to be mined and the most desirable timing and rate of production;
4. If this tract is likely to be mined as part of an existing mine and, therefore, be evaluated, on a realistic incremental basis, in relation to the existing mine to which it has the greatest value;
5. If this tract should be evaluated as part of a potential larger mining unit and evaluated as a portion of a new potential mine (*i.e.*; a tract which does not in itself form a logical mining unit);
6. The configuration of any larger mining unit of which the tract may be a part;
7. Restrictions to mining which may affect coal recovery;
8. The price that the mined coal would bring when sold;
9. Costs, including mining and reclamation, of producing the coal and the times of production;
10. The percentage rate at which anticipated income streams should be discounted, either in the absence of inflation or with inflation, in which case the anticipated rate of inflation should be given;
11. Depreciation and other tax accounting factors;
12. The value of any surface estate where held privately;
13. Documented information on the terms and conditions of recent and similar coal land transactions in the lease sale area; and
14. Any comparable sales data of similar coal lands.

The values given above may or may not change as a result of comments received from the public and changes in market conditions between now and when final economic evaluations are completed.

In addition, notice is hereby given that the coal resources in the lands previously described in Mercer County, North Dakota, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid on Tuesday, February 12, 2002, in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended (41 Stat, 437; 30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

The lease sale will be held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2002, in the BLM

Montana State Office 920 conference room, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101. Bids for the tract will be in the form of sealed bids. Sealed bids *clearly marked* "Sealed Bid for NDM90783 Coal Sale—Not to be opened before 11 a.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2002," must be submitted on or before 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 12, 2002, to the cashier, BLM, Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

The tract in this lease offering contains split estate lands. Written consent is on file from all qualified surface owners as defined in the regulations at 43 CFR 3400.0-5.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets the fair market value of the coal resource. 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 bid. *Bids received after 10 a.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2002, will not be considered.* The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value will be determined by the authorized officer after the sale.

If identical high bids are received, the tying high bidders will be requested to submit follow-up sealed 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.

A lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3 per acre, or fraction thereof; and a royalty payable to the United States of 12.5 percent of the value of coal mined 7 by surface methods and 8.0 percent of the value of coal mined by underground methods. The value of the coal shall 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 included in the Detailed Statement of Lease Sale. Copies of the statement and the proposed coal lease are available at the Montana State Office. Casefile NDM 90783 is also available for public inspection at the Montana State Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie Schaff (Land Law Examiner) at 406-896-5060, Rebecca Good (Coal Coordinator) at 406-896-5080 or Doug Burger, (North Dakota Field Office Manager) at 701-225-9148.

Dated: December 7, 2001.

Randy D. Heuscher,

Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.

[FR Doc. 01-31403 Filed 12-20-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-040-1320-EL, WYW154595]

Federal Coal, Environmental Document and Notice of Scoping

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental document on one lease application received for one Federal coal tract in the decertified Green River/Hamms Fork Coal Production Region, Wyoming, and Notice of Scoping.

The type of environmental document (Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement), will be determined after the scoping process is completed. If analysis shows that a plan amendment is necessary, the Green River Resource Management Plan (RMP) will be amended.

SUMMARY: BLM received a competitive coal lease application on September 28, 2001, from Bridger Coal Company. The tract applied for is approximately 7,054.34 acres in size, and contains approximately 110 million tons of in-place coal reserves. The tract is adjacent to the Bridger Mine in Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The tract, which is referred to as the Ten Mile Rim Lease by Application (LBA) Tract, was assigned case number WYW154595.

The tract was applied for as a tract LBA under the provisions of 43 CFR 3425.1. As part of the LBA process, BLM will prepare an environmental analysis in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, develop possible stipulations regarding mining operations, determine the fair market value (FMV) of the Federal coal included in the tract, and evaluate the maximum economic recovery (MER) of the coal in the tract. The purpose of the public scoping period and public scoping meeting is to allow interested parties to submit comments and/or relevant information that BLM should consider in preparing an environmental analysis and in evaluating the FMV and MER of the Federal coal included in this coal lease application.

DATES: Scoping comments must be received by 30 days after publication of this notice in order to be fully considered in the draft environmental analysis. A public scoping meeting at

the BLM Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming will be announced in local media.

If you have concerns or issues that you believe the BLM should address in processing this LBA proposal, you can express them verbally at the scoping meeting; or you can mail, e-mail or fax written comments to BLM at the addresses given below.

ADDRESSES: Please address questions, comments or concerns to the BLM Rock Springs Field Office, Attn: Teri Deakins, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901, fax them to 307-352-0329, or email them to the attention of Teri Deakins at teri_deakins@blm.gov. Please refer to Ten Mile Rim Lease in the subject field.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Teri Deakins or Ted Murphy at the above address, or phone: 307-352-0256.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 28, 2001, Bridger Coal Company filed a coal lease application for the following lands adjacent to the Bridger Mine in Sweetwater County, Wyoming:

Ten Mile Rim—WYW154595

- T. 21 N., R. 100 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming
 Section 2: Lots 5-8, S2N2, S2;
 Section 4: Lots 5-8, S2N2, S2;
 Section 6: Lots 8-14, S2NE, SENW, E2SW, SE;
 Section 8: All;
 Section 10: All;
 Section 12: W2;
 Section 14: All.
- T. 22 N., R. 100 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming
 Section 30: Lots 5-8, E2W2, E2;
 Section 32: All;
 Section 34: All;
- T. 22 N., R. 101 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming
 Section 26: Lots 1-16;
 Section 34: Lots 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 13, NESE, SWSE.

Containing 7,054.34 acres, more or less.

The tract includes an estimated 110 million tons of in place coal reserves. According to the application the coal would be required to provide fuel to the nearby Jim Bridger Power Plant for an additional 15 to 20 years. Land ownership in the area is checkerboard, where BLM manages for the Federal government approximately every even numbered section.

As part of the coal leasing process, BLM will evaluate the tract configuration and may decide to add or subtract Federal coal to avoid bypassing coal or to increase estimated FMV.

The Bridger Mine, which is adjacent to the Ten Mile Rim LBA Tract, has an approved mining and reclamation plan from the Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environment Quality (DEQ) and an approved air

quality permit from the Air Quality Division of the Wyoming DEQ.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) will be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the environmental document. If the tract is leased as a tract then the lease must be incorporated into the existing Jim Bridger Mining and Reclamation Plan and the Secretary of the Interior must approve the revision to the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) mining plan before the Federal coal in the tract can be mined. OSM is the Federal agency that would be responsible for recommending approval, approval with conditions, or disapproval of the revised MLA mining plan to the office of the Secretary of the Interior if the tract were leased.

Tentative issues have been identified as occurring in the area of the Ten Mile Rim LBA Tract or during the processing of previous applications to lease Federal coal in the State of Wyoming. These include:

1. The need for resolution of conflicts between existing and proposed oil and gas development, including coal bed methane, and coal mining on the tracts proposed for leasing;
2. Potential impacts on air and water quality, and the Great Divide Basin Watershed.
3. Subsidence.
4. Potential impacts to surface resources including crucial winter range, raptor nesting, sage grouse, and listed, proposed for listing, candidate, and BLM-sensitive plant and animal species.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed above during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Preparation of the environmental analysis may include actions that upon review could require an amendment to the Green River RMP. Should actions be found that are not in conformance with the Green River RMP, a planning review

of existing land-use decisions would be conducted at that time.

Dated: November 16, 2001.

Darla D. Pindell,

Acting Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.

[FR Doc. 01-31407 Filed 12-20-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

ES-930-01-1300-241A: MSES 46775, MSES 46780, MSES 46782, MSES 46788, MSES 46798, MSES 46800, MSES 46803, MSES 46806, MSES 46809 MSES 47871, MSES 48069, MSES 48070 and MSES 48071; Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Leases

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Per Public Law 97-451, the lessees timely filed a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas leases MSES 46775, MSES 46780, MSES 46782, MSES 46788, MSES 46798, MSES 46800, MSES 46803, MSES 46806, MSES 46809 MSES 47871, MSES 48069, MSES 48070 and MSES 48071, Wayne and Jones Counties, Mississippi. The lessee paid the required rentals accruing from the date of termination.

The Bureau of Land Management has not issued any leases affecting the lands. The lessee paid the \$500 administration fee for the reinstatement of each lease. The lessee has met the requirements for reinstatement of the leases per Sec. 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188). We are proposing to reinstate the leases, effective the date of termination, subject to:

- The original terms and conditions of the leases;
- The increased rental of \$5 per acre (Non Competitive)
- The increased rental of \$10 per acre (Competitive Leases);
- The increased royalty rate of 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent of 4 percentages above the existing competitive royalty rate;
- The \$158 cost of publishing this Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ida V. Doup, Chief, Branch of Use Authorization, Division of Resources, Planning, Use and Protection, BLM Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, (703) 440-1541.