

on research and development of multimedia environmental modeling (for a copy of the MOU with addendums, and details of the activities please see <http://www.ISCMEM.Org>). In 2002–2004, three additional Federal Agencies joined the interagency cooperative project. The MOU establishes a framework for facilitating cooperation and coordination among the following agencies (the specific research organization within the agency is in parenthesis): U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Engineer Research and Development Center); U.S. Department of Agriculture (Agricultural Research Service); U.S. Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service); U.S. Department of Energy (Office of Research and Development); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmosphere Administration; and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research). These agencies are cooperating and coordinating in research and development (R&D) of multimedia environmental models, software and related databases, including development, enhancements, applications and assessments of site-specific, generic, and process-oriented multimedia environmental models as they pertain to human and environmental health risk assessment. Specifically, the MOU supports collaboration and the exchange of technical information in support of multimedia environmental modeling focusing on environmental risk assessments, including development/enhancements of models and model frameworks or infrastructure and advancement of related technical activities, such as considering uncertainty and model application procedures.

*Purpose of the Public Meeting:* The annual public meeting provides an opportunity for the scientific community, other Federal and State agencies, and the public to be briefed on the progress of the MOU working groups and their initiatives for the upcoming year, and to discuss technological advancements in multimedia environmental modeling.

*Proposed Agenda:* The ISCMEM Chair will report on new participating Federal agencies. The four MOU working groups, Software System Design and Implementation, Uncertainty and Parameter Estimation, Modeling Reactive Transport, and Watershed/Water-Quality Modeling, will report on their progress during the year. A series

of technical presentations will focus on: progress on the Joint Universal Parameter Identification and Evaluation of Reliability (JUPITER) project; the development of methodologies for reducing model complexity while maintaining validity of model results; the development of efficient subsurface-sampling designs for pollutant transport surveys; and results of the *Interagency Meeting on Conceptual Model Development for Subsurface Reactive Transport Modeling of Inorganic Contaminants, Radionuclides, and Nutrients*. Participation of similar coordinating groups and consortia outside the U.S., with this MOU, will also be discussed. A detailed agenda with presentation titles and speakers will be posted on the MOU public Web site: <http://www.ISCMEM.Org>.

*Meeting Access:* The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters Auditorium is located in Two White Flint North Building at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. To access the NRC Auditorium, please use the Two White Flint North building entrance to proceed through security. The most convenient transportation to the meeting venue is via Metro. Please take Metro to the White Flint Metro stop on the Red Line. NRC is directly across the street from the White Flint Metro exit on Marinelli Road. Please inform the security personnel that you are attending the public meeting on multimedia environmental modeling in the NRC Auditorium.

**George H. Leavesley,**

*Chair, Federal Interagency Steering Committee on Multimedia Environmental Modeling.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1320-EL, WYW150210]

#### Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Sale, 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 NARO North Tract described below in Campbell County, WY, 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 10 a.m., on Tuesday, August 31, 2004. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 4 p.m., on Monday, August 30, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** The lease sale will be held in the First Floor Conference Room (Room 107), of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 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 Robert Janssen, Coal Coordinator, at 307-775-6258, and 307-775-6206, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This coal lease sale is being held in response to a lease by application (LBA) filed by Powder River Coal Company of Gillette, WY. The coal resources to be offered consist of all reserves recoverable by surface mining methods in the following-described lands located in southeastern Campbell County approximately 6 miles east of State Highway 59, 10 miles south of State Highway 450, and adjacent to the Piney Canyon and Antelope County Roads:

T. 42 N., R. 70 W., 6th PM, Wyoming

Sec. 28: Lots 5–16;

Sec. 29: Lots 5–16;

Sec. 30: Lots 9–20;

T. 42 N., R. 71 W., 6th PM, Wyoming

Sec. 25: Lots 5–15;

Sec. 26: Lots 7–10;

Sec. 35: Lots 1, 2, 7–10, 15, 16.

Containing 2,369.38 acres, more or less.

The tract is adjacent to Federal and State of Wyoming coal leases to the south held by the North Antelope Rochelle Mine. It is also adjacent to additional unleased Federal coal to the east, north, west, and southwest.

All of the acreage offered has been determined to be suitable for mining. Features such as the county roads and pipelines can be moved to permit coal recovery. Numerous oil and/or gas wells have been drilled on the tract. The estimate of the bonus value of the coal lease will include consideration of the future production from these wells. An economic analysis of this future income stream will determine whether a well is bought out and plugged prior to mining or re-established after mining is completed. The surface estate of the tract is owned by the North Antelope Rochelle Mine and the United States.

The tract contains surface mineable coal reserves in the Wyodak seam currently being recovered in the adjacent, existing mine. On the tract, the Wyodak seam is generally a single seam

averaging about 77 feet thick. A small area in the northeast corner of the LBA has a split off the bottom of the main seam. This split starts at about 17 feet thick but thins rapidly to the east. The interburden increases to about 15 feet thick at the eastern edge of the LBA. The overburden depths range from about 290 to 365 feet thick on the LBA.

The tract contains an estimated 324,627,000 tons of mineable coal. This estimate of mineable reserves includes the main Wyodak seam and split mentioned above but does not include any tonnage from localized seams or splits containing less than 5 feet of coal. It does not include the State of Wyoming coal although these reserves are expected to be recovered by the NARO mine. The total mineable stripping ratio (BCY/Ton) of the coal is about 3.9:1. Potential bidders for the LBA should consider the recovery rate expected from thick seam and multiple seam mining.

The NARO North LBA coal is ranked as subbituminous C. The overall average quality on an as-received basis is 9090 BTU/lb with about 0.25% sulfur and 2.4% sodium in the ash. These quality averages place the coal reserves at the top of the range of coal quality currently being mined in the Wyoming portion of the Powder River Basin.

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets or exceeds BLM's estimate of the fair market value of the tract. 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 Monday, August 30, 2004, 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 \$3.00 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, WYW150210, are available for inspection at the BLM Wyoming State Office.

**Alan Rabinoff,**

*Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-134-1610-DQ-006C]

#### Notice of Availability of a Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) for the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA)

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Proposed Colorado Canyons Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/FEIS) is available to the public for a 30-day protest period. The Proposed Plan and associated FEIS were developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976.

**DATES:** BLM will accept written protests on the FEIS if postmarked within 30 calendar days from the date that a Notice of Availability is published in the **Federal Register** by the Environmental Protection Agency. Instructions for filing a protest are described in the Dear Reader letter in the PRMP/FEIS and are also included in the Supplementary Information section of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to: Jane Ross, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506. Comments also may be sent by e-mail to [Jane\\_Ross@co.blm.gov](mailto:Jane_Ross@co.blm.gov). Written comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the offices of the BLM Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506, during normal working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except holidays).

The PRMP/FEIS and other associated documents or background information may be viewed and downloaded in PDF format at the project Web site at <http://www.co.blm.gov/cocanplan/>. Copies of the DRMP/EIS are available at the BLM Grand Junction Office at the address above; at the BLM Moab (UT) Field Office, 82 E. Dogwood, Moab, UT 84532. Copies are also available at the

following Mesa County Public Library District locations during regular business hours:

Central Library, 530 Grand Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501;

Fruita Branch, 325 East Aspen Avenue, Fruita, CO 81521;

Palisade Branch, 711 Iowa Street, Palisade, CO 81526;

Clifton Branch, Peachtree Shopping Center, 3225 I-70 Business Loop A-1, Clifton, CO 81520;

Orchard Mesa Branch, 2736 Unaweep Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81503.

The planning documents and direct supporting record for the analysis for the DRMP/EIS will be available for inspection at the BLM Grand Junction Field Office during normal working hours, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Jane Ross (970) 244-3027, Planning and Environmental Coordinator ([jane\\_ross@co.blm.gov](mailto:jane_ross@co.blm.gov)), or Raul Morales at (970) 244-3066

([raul\\_morales@co.blm.gov](mailto:raul_morales@co.blm.gov)), acting Colorado Canyons NCA Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The CCNCA was officially designated on October 24, 2000, when the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act of 2000 was signed into public law by the President. The purpose of the Act is to conserve, protect, and enhance, for the benefit and enjoyment of both present and future generations, the nationally important values of the public lands making up the CCNCA, including the Black Ridge Canyons, Ruby Canyon, and Rabbit Valley. The CCNCA, located west of Grand Junction, includes 122,300 rugged acres of sandstone canyons, natural arches, spires, and alcoves carved into the Colorado Plateau along a 24-mile stretch of the Colorado River. Included in the CCNCA are 75,550 acres of wilderness designated as the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. At the western boundary of the CCNCA, 5,200 acres stretch into eastern Utah.

The Environmental Protection Agency published the Notice of Availability of the Colorado canyons National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan and Draft EIS in the **Federal Register** on October 17, 2003. The public comment period on the DEIS ended January 30, 2004. The agency preferred alternative, Alternative 3, is the selected alternative for the Proposed Plan and FEIS. The agency preferred