

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 Wednesday, January 16, 2002. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 4 p.m., on Tuesday, January 15, 2002.

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, WY 82003. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Cashier, 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 Jacobs Ranch 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 near Wright, WY, approximately 7 miles east of State Highway 59 and 2 miles north of State Highway 450:

- T. 44 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M.
Sec. 26: Lots 8 through 12;
Sec. 27: Lots 1 through 16;
Sec. 28: Lots 1 through 16;
Sec. 29: Lots 1 through 16;
Sec. 30: Lots 5 through 20;
Sec. 31: Lots 5 through 20;
Sec. 32: Lots 1 through 16;
Sec. 33: Lots 4, 5, 12, 13;
Sec. 35: Lot 1;
- T. 44 N., R. 71 W., 6th P.M.
Sec. 25: Lots 1 through 16.
Containing 4,982.24 acres, more or less.

All of the acreage offered has been determined to be suitable for mining. The surface estate of the tract is controlled by the Jacobs Ranch Mine and the Black Thunder Mine. Also, approximately 200 acres of private coal is located adjacent to the tract at the eastern boundary and about 640 acres of State of Wyoming coal is located adjacent to the tract at the southwest boundary. These reserves might be recovered in conjunction with the LBA but are not included as part of this lease sale.

There are numerous oil and gas wells and coalbed methane wells 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. Other costs considered will include moving or removing roads, pipelines, and surface facilities.

The tract contains surface minable coal reserves in the Wyodak seam currently being recovered in the adjacent, existing mines. Recovery of the Wyodak seam can occur in three splits: the upper, middle, or lower depending on the specific geology encountered. On the LBA, there is generally only a single split with the upper Wyodak separated by a thin parting from the main seam. The two seams merge into a single seam in the western portion of the LBA as the parting pinches out. The upper seam averages 13 feet thick and the main seam averages 52 feet thick on the LBA. The lower Wyodak splits in the far eastern portion of the LBA requiring multiple seam recovery near the burnline along the eastern LBA boundary. An additional seam below the Wyodak occurs in the far western portion of the LBA but this thin seam is not considered to be minable due to the high incremental stripping ratio and relatively low quality. There are no coal outcrops on the tract. The overburden above the Wyodak seam ranges from about 70-300 feet thick on the LBA.

The tract contains an estimated 537,542,000 tons of minable coal. This estimate of minable reserves includes the Wyodak splits mentioned above but does not include any tonnage from localized seams or splits containing less than 5 feet of coal. The total minable stripping ratio (BCY/Ton) of the coal is about 3.5:1. Potential bidders for the LBA should consider the recovery rate expected from thick seam and multiple seam mining.

The North Jacobs Ranch LBA coal is ranked as subbituminous C. The overall average quality on an as-received basis is 8792 BTU/lb, 27.40% moisture, 5.46% ash, 0.45% sulfur, and 1.29% sodium in the ash. These quality averages place the coal reserves near the high end 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 equals 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 Tuesday, January 15, 2002, 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 augur 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, WYW146744, are available for inspection at the BLM Wyoming State Office.

Dated: December 5, 2001.

Phillip C. Perlewitz,

Acting Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.

[FR Doc. 01-30533 Filed 12-10-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-912-02-1120-PG-24-1A]

Call for Nomination on Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Call for nomination on the Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC).

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to solicit public nominations for a vacancy which occurred on the Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC). Utah residents with an interest and background in commercial recreation or oil and gas development are being sought to fill this vacancy on the 15-person Council which has occurred due to the resignation of one of its members. The person selected will serve out the remaining balance of a 3-year term that will continue through September 2003.

Nominees will be evaluated based on their experience or knowledge of the geographic area; education, training and/or experience; and, their experience in working with disparate groups to achieve collaborative solutions. All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from represented interests or organizations, a completed background information nomination form, as well as any other information that speaks to the nominee's

qualifications. The Bureau of Land Management, along with the Governor's Office, will forward the nominations to the Secretary of the Interior, who will make the appointment to the Council.

Resource Advisory Councils were established and authorized in 1995 by the Secretary of the Interior to provide advice and recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management on management of public lands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Anyone interested in requesting a nomination form should inquire at the Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, Attention: Sherry Foot, 324 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111; telephone (801) 539-4195. All nominations must be received no later than close of business January 4, 2002.

Dated: November 16, 2001.

Robert Bennett,

Associate State Director.

[FR Doc. 01-30614 Filed 12-10-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-020-02-1310-EI]

Notice of Intent To Prepare Planning Analyses/Environmental Assessments

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

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Planning Analysis/Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: The Jackson Field Office, Eastern States will prepare a Planning Analysis/Environmental Assessment (PA/EA), in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to consider leasing Federal mineral estate for oil and gas exploration and development. The lands, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are located along the South Pass and Southwest Pass near the mouth of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish. 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 thirty days from the date of this publication. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to without

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 and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Clay Moore, 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/EA. 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 uses by the Corps of Engineers and (2) consideration of restrictions on lease rights to protect surface resources and uses by the Corps of Engineers. Tract locations, along with acreage, are listed below. Total acreage being addressed is 7,966.6 acres.

T22S, R31E, Louisiana Meridian

Lot 3; being all of Lots or Sections 16 and 35 (33.82 acres)

T22S, R32F, Louisiana Meridian

Lot 2; being all of Lot or Sec. 16 (26.7 acres)

Lot 4a; being all of Lots or Sections 25 through 44 (870.65 acres)

Lot 7; being all of Lot or Section 19 (90.95 acres)

T22S, R33E, Louisiana Meridian

Lot 4b; being all of Lots or Sections 1 through 7 and Lots or Sections 3 through 14 (979.22 acres)

Lot 5; being all of Lots or Sections 15 and 16 (20 acres)

T23S, R21E, Louisiana Meridian

Lot 6; being all of Lots 9, 10, 15 and 16 (273 acres)

T23S, R32E, Louisiana Meridian

Lot 8; being all of Lot or Section 91 (121.72 acres)

Lot 9; being all of Lot or Section 1 and Lot or Section 13 (also described as Lot 18 T22S, R32E; Lot or Sections 14 through 90, Lots or Sections 92 through 96) (1,849 acres)

T24S, R32E, Louisiana Meridian

Lot 10; being all of Lots or Sections 1 through 40 and a portion of Lot or Section 28 (1,908.42 acres)

T24S, R32E and 33E, Louisiana Meridian

Lot 11; being all of Lots or Sections 41 through 78 and Lots 1 through 10 (1,793.12 acres)

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

Sid Vogelpohl,

Acting Field Manager, Jackson Field Office.

[FR Doc. 01-30497 Filed 12-10-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-310-1820-AE]

Notice of Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Northeast California Resource Advisory Council, Alturas, California, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Public Law 92-463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Public Law 94-579), the U. S. Bureau of Land Management's Northeast California Resource Advisory Council will meet Thursday and Friday, Jan. 10 and 11, 2002, at the Bureau of Land Management's Alturas Field Office, 708 West 12th St., Alturas, California.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting begins at 1 p.m., Jan. 10, and adjourns at noon, Jan. 11, in the Conference Room of the Alturas Field Office. Public comments will be accepted Thursday, Jan. 10, at 4 p.m. Meeting agenda items include a juniper management status report, an overview report of the Modoc-Washoe Experimental Stewardship Program, a status report on wild horse and burro management, and an update on management planning for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BLM Alturas Field Manager Tim Burke, (530) 233-4666; or Public Affairs Officer Joseph J. Fontana, (530) 257-5381.

Joseph J. Fontana,

Public Affairs Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-30615 Filed 12-10-01; 8:45 am]

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