

- Bureau of Reclamation Library, Denver Federal Center, 6th Avenue and Kipling, Building 67, Room 167, Denver, CO, 80225.

- Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office, 2222 W. Dunlap Ave., Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ, 85021.

- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, 700 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles, CA, 90017.

- Government Document Service, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 85287.

- Yuma County Library, 350 S. 3rd Ave., Yuma, AZ, 85384.

- Palo Verde Valley Library, 125 W. Chanslor Way, Blythe, CA, 92225.

- Mohave County Library, 1170 Hancock Rd., Bullhead City, AZ, 86442.

- Laughlin Library, 2840 South Needles Hwy., Laughlin, NV, 89029.

- Clark County Library, 1401 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV, 89119.

- James I. Gibson Library, 280 Water Street, Henderson, NV, 89015.

Dated: December 14, 2004.

**Willie R. Taylor,**

*Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.*

[FR Doc. 04-27677 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1320-EL, WYW154595]

#### 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 Ten Mile Rim Tract described below in Sweetwater 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 Wednesday, January 19, 2005. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 4 p.m., on Tuesday, January 18, 2005.

**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, BLM Wyoming State Office, at the address given above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie Weaver, Land Law Examiner, or Robert

Janssen, Coal Coordinator, at 307-775-6260, and 307-775-6206, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This coal lease sale is being held in response to a lease by application (LBA) filed by Bridger Coal Company. The Federal coal tract being considered for sale is adjacent to the Jim Bridger Mine operated by Bridger Coal Company. The coal resources to be offered consist of all reserves recoverable by underground mining methods in the following-described lands located in Sweetwater County north of Point of Rocks, Wyoming. It is approximately 10 miles north of Interstate 80 and is immediately adjacent to the northwestern boundary of the existing Jim Bridger surface mine.

T. 21 N., R. 100 W., 6th PM, Wyoming. Sec. 6: Lots 8-14, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

T. 22 N., R. 100 W., 6th PM, Wyoming. Sec. 30: Lots 5-8, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

T. 22 N., R. 101 W., 6th PM, Wyoming. Sec. 26: Lots 1-16; Sec. 34: Lots 1, 2, 6-8, 13, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Containing 2,242.18 acres, more or less.

The tract is adjacent to sections within an existing federal coal lease to the south, to alternating sections under a private coal lease, and to an imbedded section under a State of Wyoming lease, all controlled by the Jim Bridger Mine. It is also adjacent to additional unleased federal and private coal to the east, north, and west.

All of the acreage offered has been determined to be suitable for underground mining. There are no existing surface facilities or structures that will be impacted by the proposed underground mine. There are no producing oil and/or gas wells on the tract. All of the surface estate is controlled by the Jim Bridger Mine.

The tract contains underground mineable coal reserves in the Deadman zone of the Fort Union formation currently being recovered in the adjacent, existing surface mine. In this area, the Deadman occurs in numerous seams, but only the D-41 seam is considered to be recoverable in the proposed mine area. This seam ranges from about 7-16 feet thick and occurs over the entire LBA. The depth from the surface ranges from about 250-1050 feet from the shallow southwest corner to the deep northeast corner.

The tract contains an estimated 32,145,000 tons of recoverable coal based on a longwall recovery method. This method assumes 7-8.5 foot recovery for continuous miner sections and 7-11 foot recovery for longwall panels. The estimate of recoverable reserves includes only the D-41 seam.

The Ten Mile Rim LBA coal is ranked as subbituminous B. The overall average quality is approximately 9,900 BTU/lb. with about 10.25% ash, 0.59% sulfur, and 3.21% sodium in the ash. These quality averages are generally higher than the reserves currently being mined in the adjacent surface mine.

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 18, 2005, 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, WYW154595, are available for inspection at the BLM Wyoming State Office.

**Alan Rabinoff,**

*Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.*

[FR Doc. 04-27486 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-030-1610-DS]

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Rawlins Resource Management Plan Revision

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Rawlins Resource Management Plan (RMP), Wyoming.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the DEIS for the Rawlins RMP Revision.

The DEIS describes and analyzes alternatives for the planning and management of public lands and resources administered by the BLM Rawlins Field Office.

**DATES:** The Rawlins RMP and DEIS will be available for review for 90 calendar days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its NOA in the **Federal Register**. The BLM can best utilize comments and resource information submissions within this review period.

Formal hearings and open houses will be scheduled to provide the public additional opportunities to submit comments on the Rawlins RMP revision and DEIS. All meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, Rawlins RMP Web site announcements, or mailings.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the DEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local Government agencies and to interested parties. The document will be available electronically on the following Web site: <http://www.wy.blm.gov/rfo/rfoplan.htm>. Copies of the DEIS will be available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003

- Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, 1300 N. Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John Spehar, Project Manager, BLM Rawlins Field Office, 1300 N. Third Street, Rawlins, WY 82301. Requests for information may be sent electronically to: [Rawlins\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:Rawlins_wymail@blm.gov) with "Attention: Rawlins RMP Information Request" in the subject line. Mr. Spehar may also be reached at (307) 328-4264.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The administrative area is located in south central and southeastern Wyoming and includes approximately 11.2 million acres of land in Albany, Carbon, Laramie, and Sweetwater Counties. Within that area, the BLM administers approximately 3.3 million acres of public land surface and underlying Federal mineral estate. The BLM administers an additional 0.1 million acres of surface estate over State and private minerals, and administers an additional 1.2 million acres of Federal

mineral estate under private or State-owned surface.

In 1990, the BLM approved the Great Divide RMP. This RMP established management direction for the surface and mineral estates and associated resources administered by the BLM Rawlins Field Office, Wyoming. In July 2001, an evaluation of the Great Divide RMP, predecessor to the Rawlins RMP, concluded that the RMP was deficient in certain areas as a result of changed conditions and demands on the area's resources.

In 2002, under the provisions found at 43 CFR 1610, the BLM published a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that would be used to review and analyze current conditions considering new data, new or revised policies, and circumstances affecting the entire or major portions of the geographic area addressed in the Great Divide RMP. To reflect changes in administrative units, the BLM also established that the revised plan would henceforth be known as the Rawlins RMP.

The DEIS describes the physical, biological, cultural, historic, and socioeconomic resources in and around the planning area. The focus for impact analysis is based on resource issues and concerns identified during scoping and public involvement activities and opportunities. Potential impacts of concern regarding possible management direction and planning decisions (not in priority order) are development of energy resources and mineral-related issues; special management designations; resource accessibility; wildland-urban interface; special status species management; water quality; vegetation management; and recreation, cultural and paleontological resources management.

The DEIS documents the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of four alternatives for management of BLM-administered public lands within the Rawlins Field Office. When completed, the revised RMP will fulfill the obligations set forth by NEPA, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and associated Federal regulations. Four alternatives are analyzed in detail:

1. *Alternative 1.* Continues Existing Management Direction ("No Action" Alternative);
2. *Alternative 2.* Encourages development and use opportunities while minimizing adverse impacts to cultural and natural resources (Development Alternative);
3. *Alternative 3.* Fosters conservation of natural and cultural resources while

providing for compatible development and use (Protection Alternative);

4. *Alternative 4.* Provides development opportunities while protecting sensitive resources (Agency Preferred Alternative).

The Rawlins RMP DEIS considers, and is in conformance with, BLM's National Fire Plan. The potential for energy development in the Rawlins RMP planning area is high, both east and west of Rawlins, Wyoming. Based on the high potential within the area administered by the Rawlins Field Office, the DEIS considers oil and gas and wind energy development in support of the National Energy Plan.

In the time since the BLM published its Notice of Intent to prepare an RMP and EIS in the **Federal Register**, BLM has conducted open houses, taken surveys, and issued mailings to solicit comments and input. The Rawlins Field Office has been coordinating with various County Governments, Conservation Districts, and Wyoming State Government throughout the development of the DEIS. Tribal Governments with interests in the Rawlins area were also contacted. Commencing with the date that BLM's NOI was published in the **Federal Register**, through April 7, 2003, the BLM solicited for, and received, in excess of, 26,000 comments from interested parties. In addition, public meetings were held to provide the public with an opportunity to acquire information about the RMP revision process, as well as to provide the public with an opportunity to submit comments. Public meetings were held in: Rock Springs, Wyoming, March 3, 2003; Rawlins, Wyoming, March 4, 2003; Baggs, Wyoming, March 5, 2003; and Laramie, Wyoming, March 6, 2003. BLM has considered all comments presented throughout the process in the preparation of the Draft RMP EIS. Background information and maps used in developing the Draft RMP EIS are available for public viewing in the Rawlins Field Office.

#### How To Submit Comments

The BLM welcomes comments on the Rawlins RMP DEIS. Comments may be submitted as follows:

1. The Rawlins RMP Revision Web site at [www.rawlinsrmp.com](http://www.rawlinsrmp.com) is designed to allow commenters to submit comments electronically by resource subject directly onto a comment form posted on the Web site;
2. Comments may be uploaded in an electronic file directly to the above Web site;
3. Comments may be electronically mailed to [comments@rawlinsrmp.com](mailto:comments@rawlinsrmp.com).

4. Comments may be submitted during the public open houses and hearings that will be held at a later date; and

5. Written comments may be mailed directly, or delivered, to the BLM at: Rawlins RMP/EIS, Bureau of Land Management Rawlins Field Office, 1300 N. Third Street, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, WY 82301-2407.

BLM will only accept comments on the Rawlins RMP DEIS if they are submitted in one of the five methods as described above. To facilitate analysis of comment and information submitted, BLM strongly encourages the public to submit comments in an electronic format through either the Web site or electronic mail. To be given consideration by BLM all DEIS comment submittals must include the commenter's name and street address.

Our practice is to make comments, including the names and street addresses of each respondent, available for public review at the BLM office listed above during business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. Your comments may be published as part of the EIS process. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address or both from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: January 4, 2004.

**Editorial Note:** This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register December 13, 2004.

**Robert A. Bennett,**

*State Director.*

[FR Doc. 04-27532 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Buckman Water Diversion Project, Santa Fe County, New Mexico

**AGENCIES:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior. Forest Service, Agriculture.

#### **ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Bureau of Land Management, Taos Field Office, and Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest, announce the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Buckman Water Diversion Project.

**DATES:** The Buckman Water Diversion Project DEIS will be available for review for 60 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register**. The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions within the 60 day review period provided above. Any meetings or public involvement activities associated with distribution of the DEIS will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the local media, at Web site <http://www.nm.blm.gov>, and/or mailings.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the DEIS have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to interested parties, and will be available via the Internet at <http://www.nm.blm.gov>.

Copies of the DEIS will also be available at the following locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505.
- Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505.
- Tetra Tech, Santa Fe Office, 502 West Cordova Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505.
- City of Santa Fe, Sangre de Cristo Water Division, 801 West San Mateo, Santa Fe, NM 87504.
- Santa Fe County, Utilities Department, 205 Montezuma Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501.
- USDI Bureau of Reclamation, 555 Broadway Ave., Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Comments must be sent to Mr. Sandy Hurlocker (Buckman Diversion Comments), Espanola Ranger District, PO Box 3307, Espanola, New Mexico 87533. E-mail comments may be directed to the following e-mail address: [comments-southwestern-santafe-espanola@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-santafe-espanola@fs.fed.us)

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTRACT:**

The Bureau of Land Management contact is Ms. Sher Churchill, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Taos, Field Office, 226 Cruz Alta Rd., Taos, New Mexico 87571, telephone (505)

751-4725. The Forest Service contact is Mr. Sandy Hurlocker, NEPA Coordinator, Espanola Ranger District, P.O. Box 3307, Espanola, New Mexico 87533, telephone (505) 753-7331.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The project area is located northwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The DEIS describes and analyzes the impacts of alternatives for approximately 9 miles of upgrades to an existing access road and for construction and operation of a water diversion intake on the Rio Grande; sediment settling ponds; pumps and water pipelines to move the withdrawn water approximately 15 miles to the vicinity of its use; two water treatment plants; and two power lines a 115 Kv and a 12.47 Kv plus one substation.

If authorized, the project will be predominantly located on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service; and a relatively small portion of the project facilities will be located on private lands and Bureau of Land Management lands leased to the City of Santa Fe.

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are co-lead agencies for this project; the Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation (contributing funds), City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County are cooperating agencies. The City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County and Las Companas Limited Partnership are the project applicants.

The project applicants (City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, and Las Companas Limited Partnership) have proposed the Buckman Water Diversion Project to meet the immediate need for a sustainable means of accessing water supplies that make more direct use of the Applicants' water rights by diverting San Juan-Chama Project water and native Rio Grande water while reducing impacts to the aquifer. The Applicants propose to construct and operate a surface water diversion facility at the Rio Grande near the western terminus of Buckman Road located within the Santa Fe National Forest, near the existing Buckman Well Field. The water will be pumped to the Santa Fe vicinity where it will serve municipal and community water supply customers.

The Buckman Water Diversion is proposed to be constructed with the capacity necessary to meet the near-term need for water, based on physical, technical, and environmental limitations. The proposed project has an independent utility from the long-term water management strategy being undertaken by the City and the County.

The scoping process has included public meetings, field reviews, and interactions with various State and