

evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of law. If the Service determines that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the listed species. A final decision on permit issuance will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: May 23, 1997.

David L. McMullen,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 97-14261 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-070-97-1430-00]

Emergency Closure of Public Lands to Motorized Vehicles Within the Headwaters Resource Area, Montana

AGENCY: Butte District Office, Bureau of Land Management, DOI

ACTION: Notice is hereby given that effective immediately all public lands in the Whitetail/Pipestone area located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, section 17, T. 2 N., R. 5 W., P.M.M. located north of the OHV trail which parallels the railroad tracks, to the old cabin along Dry Creek to the north, and roughly in the center of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 17, are closed to all vehicle access.

The purpose of this closure is to prevent further disturbance to the soils and vegetation in and near the riparian area, reduce sedimentation into Dry Creek, and stop the proliferation of user-created trails in the area.

The authority for this closure is 43 CFR 8341.2. The closure will remain in effect until the Recreation Management Plan for this area is completed.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the closure order and maps showing the location of the closed roads are available from the Headwaters Resource Area, 106 N. Parkmont, P.O. Box 3088, Butte, Montana 59702.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Merle Good, Headwaters Resource Area Manager, P.O. Box 3388, Butte, Montana 59702; telephone 406-494-5059.

Dated: May 20, 1997.

Michele Good,

Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-14227 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-933-97-1320-01; COC 60622]

Colorado; Notice of Invitation for Coal Exploration License Application, Mountain Coal Company

Pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended, and to Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 3410, members of the public are hereby invited to participate with Mountain Coal Company in a program for the exploration of unleased coal deposits owned by the United States of America in the following described lands located in Gunnison County, Colorado:

T. 13 S., R. 89 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 16, SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 17, all;

Sec. 18, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E $\frac{1}{2}$, and E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 19, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E $\frac{1}{2}$, and E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 20, all;

Sec. 21, W $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 28, W $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 29, all;

Sec. 30, lots 1 to 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 31, lots 3 to 6, E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 32, all;

Sec. 33, W $\frac{1}{2}$.

T. 13 S., R. 90 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 12, lots 6 to 10, inclusive, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 13, lots 1 to 16, inclusive;

Sec. 24, lots 1 to 16, inclusive;

Sec. 25, all;

Sec. 35, lots 1 to 16, inclusive;

Sec. 36, all.

T. 14 S., R. 89 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 4, lots 7, 8, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 5, lots 3 to 6, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 6, lots 4 to 10, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 14 S., R. 90 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 1, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 2, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 11, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 12, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$.

The area described contains approximately 12,592.58 acres.

The application for coal exploration license is available for public inspection during normal business hours under serial number COC 60622 at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, and at the Montrose District Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401.

Written Notice of Intent to Participate should be addressed to the attention of the following persons and must be received by them within 30 days after

publication of the Notice of Invitation in the **Federal Register**:

Karen Purvis, Solid Minerals Team, Resource Services, Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215

and

Wendell Koontz, Sr. Geologist, Mountain Coal Company, P.O. Box 591, Somerset, Colorado 81434

Any party electing to participate in this program must share all costs on a pro rata basis with the applicant and with any other party or parties who elect to participate.

Dated: May 19, 1997.

Karen Purvis,

Solid Minerals Team, Resource Services.

[FR Doc. 97-14226 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-030-1310-00]

Amended Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Amended Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and to conduct Scoping for the Continental Divide/Wamsutter II Natural Gas Development Project, Carbon and Sweetwater Counties, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: Under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins District Office, will prepare an EIS for the proposed Continental Divide/Wamsutter II Natural Gas Development Project. Several oil and gas operators (Operators) plan to expand natural gas exploration and development operations in and adjacent to existing developed oil and gas fields within the Continental Divide Area and the Greater Wamsutter II Area.

The Continental Divide/Wamsutter II Project Area (CD/WIIPA) is generally located in T. 15 N.-T. 23 N., R. 91 W.-R. 99 W. in Sweetwater and Carbon Counties, south-central Wyoming, and encompasses approximately 1,061,200 acres of mixed Federal (515,300 acres), State (25,900 acres), and private (520,000 acres) land. The CD/WIIPA is located approximately 25 miles west of Rawlins and 40 miles east of Rock Springs along Interstate 80, which bisects the area. Operators propose to

drill and develop approximately 3,000 well locations (1,500 on Federal lands and 1,500 on private lands) and associated facilities (i.e., pipelines, roads, production facilities, etc.) in the CD/WIIPA beginning in 1998 and continuing for the next 10–20 years. Well spacing patterns on the area would vary from 640 to 80 acres per well (i.e., 1 to 8 wells per section). This area presently contains several active natural gas fields, some with ongoing drilling programs. There are approximately 720 producing or permitted well locations in the area. The proposed action may be modified as a result of comments received during scoping or anytime during the preparation of the draft EIS. Affected Federal lands are administered by the BLM Rock Springs and Rawlins District Offices. The EIS will be prepared for the BLM by a third party contractor.

DATES: Comments on the scoping process will be accepted through June 30, 1997. Public meetings to discuss the proposed project are scheduled for 7 p.m., June 18, 1997, at the Community Room of the Sweetwater County Court House, 80 West Flaming Gorge Way in Green River, Wyoming, and on June 19, 1997, at the Jeffrey Memorial Community Center located on the corner of Third and Spruce Streets in Rawlins, Wyoming.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management, J. Clare Miller, Team Leader, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bureau of Land Management, J. Clare Miller, Team Leader, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301, phone (307) 328–4245.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

CONSIDERATIONS: Public comments submitted for this scoping review, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This amended Notice of Intent combines two adjoining proposed natural gas development projects, the Continental Divide Natural Gas Project and the Greater Wamsutter II Natural Gas Project. Scoping for the Continental Divide Natural Gas Project was conducted in March and April 1995. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was being prepared but has not been released to the public. Scoping for the Greater Wamsutter II Project was conducted in December 1993. The draft and final EIS's were released in 1995 and a Record of Decision (ROD) was issued in November 1995. Development within the Greater Wamsutter II Area is rapidly approaching the levels analyzed in the EIS for that project. Initially, the EIS analyzed a maximum of 750 wells on 300 well locations. Since directional drilling has proved to be technically impractical or uneconomical in many areas, additional well locations beyond those analyzed in the Greater Wamsutter II EIS may be required. The expanded development within the Greater Wamsutter II Area would require additional environmental analysis, above and beyond that provided in the original EIS.

BLM will prepare a combined EIS for the Continental Divide project and the expanded Greater Wamsutter II project. BLM is conducting additional scoping to obtain public comment on the combined proposal.

This EIS will address cumulative impacts of this project and other ongoing oil and gas projects, addressed in the recently completed EISs for the Mulligan Draw Gas Project, the Creston/Blue Gap Natural Gas Project, the Greater Wamsutter II Natural Gas Project, and the proposed South Baggs Unit Natural Gas Project. Potential issues to be addressed in the EIS include, but are not limited to: Impacts to wildlife populations and their habitat, access road development and transportation management, surface and ground water resources, noxious weed control, reclamation, conflicts with livestock grazing operations, protection of cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, impacts to air quality, impacts to recreation, impacts to private residences, and cumulative impacts.

Dated: May 27, 1997.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director, Wyoming.

[FR Doc. 97–14259 Filed 5–30–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–22–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT–060–07–1310–00]

Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the Price Coalbed Methane Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the Price Coalbed Methane Project.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) have been prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Moab District Office.

The EIS was prepared under third party contract to analyze impacts of alternatives for River Gas Corporation's Price Coalbed Methane Project near Price, Utah.

The ROD documents the decision approving development of the Price Coalbed Methane Project as submitted by River Gas Corporation (RGC) to the Bureau of Land Management. RGC notified the Bureau of Land Management of the company's intent to develop a coalbed methane gas production field on private, State and Federal lands in an area adjacent to the City of Price, Utah. The approved project would involve the construction, drilling, completion, and stimulation of approximately 545 CBM gas wells and associated access roads, pipelines, and electrical distribution lines over approximately a 10-year plus period within an area of approximately 290-square miles. There are other lessees within the 290 square mile Project Area that could potentially develop an additional 429 CBM wells and associated facilities.

Environmental impacts from RGC proposed project were considered and analyzed in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), prepared and released for public review and comment in October 1996. Based on comments received on the DEIS, modifications and revisions were made, and the Final EIS and ROD released concurrently for review on May 30, 1997 as allowed by 40 CFR 1506.10(b)(2) for agencies that have a formally established appeal process.

Copies of the Final EIS and ROD can be obtained from the Moab District Office at 82 East Dogwood Avenue, Moab, Utah, or by calling (801) 259–