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Contacts: Tony Brown,
307-352-0215

BLM Rock Springs Seeks Public Input on the Modification of Federal Coal Lease

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rock Springs Field Office is seeking public input on the modification of a federal coal lease at the Bridger Underground Coal Mine about 35 miles northeast of Rock Springs, Wyoming, in Sweetwater County.

The BLM intends to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed action to modify federal lease WYW154595 to incorporate approximately 120 acres adjacent to the existing 8,500-acre Bridger Underground Coal Mine permit boundary. The Bridger Coal Company has operated the underground coal mine since 2004.

Public comments will help determine the scope and development of the EA and are most useful when they substantively address specific issues, concerns, ideas or mitigation opportunities. Written comments will be accepted until January 16, 2015 and may be emailed to BLM_WY_Bridger_Coal_Lease_Modification@blm.gov with "Bridger Comment" in the subject line; faxed to 307-352-0329; or mailed or delivered to the BLM Rock Springs Field Office, Attn: Bridger Coal Lease Modification #2, 280 Highway 191 N., Rock Springs WY 82901.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

More information is available online at www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo.html or Carol Montgomery at 307-352-0344.

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the individual listed above during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the below individuals. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

The BLM is responsible for the balanced use of the public lands and resources in a manner that best serves the long-term needs of current and future generations. Therefore, the BLM takes the necessary steps to ensure that federal coal lease modification applications are analyzed in accordance with Federal regulations (43 CFR 3432.2). These regulations provide for lease modifications when: 1) the modification serves the interests of the United States; (2) there is no competitive interest in the lands or deposits; and (3) the additional lands or deposits cannot be developed as part of another potential or existing independent operation.

The BLM has made the determination that the above criteria apply to this application. The BLM will receive fair market value from Bridger for the lands added to the lease by the proposed modification.