

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS, RESPONSES AND TIME—Continued

Activity	Estimated number of respondents	Estimated number of responses per respondent	Completion time per response (minutes)	Total burden hours
Headwaters Mail-back survey	420	1	30	210
KRNCA Visitor Interview	400	1	7	47
KRNCA Mail-back survey	280	1	30	140
Totals	1,700	467

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping “Non-Hour Cost”
Burden: None.

Jean Sonneman,
Information Collection Clearance Officer,
Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. 2012–8969 Filed 4–13–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–84–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLWY922000–L57000000–BX0000;
WYW176095]

Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Sale, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain coal resources in the South Porcupine Coal Tract described below in Campbell County, Wyoming, will be reoffered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

DATES: The lease sale will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2012. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

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, Wyoming 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 Kathy Muller Ogle, 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 BTU Western Resources, Inc., Gillette, Wyoming. The South Porcupine Tract

was previously offered for sale on February 29, 2012, and the one bid received at that sale was rejected because it did not meet the BLM’s estimate of fair market value. The coal resource to be reoffered consists of all reserves recoverable by surface mining methods in the following-described lands located approximately 1 to 4 miles north of the Campbell/Converse county line, adjacent and up to 2 miles east of the main line railroad, and adjacent to the western and northern lease boundary of the North Antelope Rochelle Mine.

T. 41 N., R. 70 W., 6th Principal Meridian

Sec. 7, lots 7 through 10 inclusive and lots 15 through 18 inclusive;
Sec. 18, lots 6 through 11 inclusive and lots 14 through 19 inclusive;

T. 41 N., R. 71 W., 6th Principal Meridian

Sec. 1, lots 5 through 20 inclusive;
Sec. 12, lots 1 through 16 inclusive;
Sec. 13, lots 1 through 16 inclusive;
Sec. 14, lots 1, 2, 8, 9, 16, and 18;
Sec. 23, lots 1 and 17; and
Sec. 24, lots 2 through 4 inclusive and lots 17, 19, and 21.

Containing 3,243.03 acres, more or less, in Campbell County, Wyoming.

The LBA tract is adjacent to Federal leases to the east and south as well as a State of Wyoming lease to the north, all controlled by the North Antelope Rochelle Mine. It is also adjacent to Federal leases to the west across the mainline railroad, which is part of Cloud Peak Energy Resources, LLC’s Antelope Mine. It is adjacent to additional unleased Federal coal to the west.

Most of the acreage offered has been determined to be suitable for mining except for the mainline railroad right-of-way along the western boundary of the LBA. Features such as roads, utilities, and pipelines can be moved to permit coal recovery. In addition, a producing gas well is located on the LBA as well as several coal bed natural gas wells.

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 consider reasonable

compensation to the gas lessee for lost production of the natural gas when the wells are bought out by the coal lessee. Approximately half of the surface estate of the tract is within the Thunder Basin National Grasslands and managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Most of the other half of the surface estate is owned by various private entities with a small amount owned by a Peabody Energy Corporation subsidiary.

The tract contains surface mineable coal reserves in the Wyodak-Anderson coal zone currently being recovered in the adjacent, existing mines. On the LBA tract, there are two mineable seams, the Wyodak-Anderson 1 (Anderson) and the Wyodak-Anderson 2 (Canyon), located in the southern portion of the LBA that merge into a single seam in the northern portion. The total coal thickness averages about 77 feet with the shallower Anderson seam slightly thicker than the deeper Canyon seam where two seams occur.

The two seams can be separated by as much as 80 feet of interburden. Overburden depths to the Anderson range from about 160 to 460 feet thick.

The tract contains an estimated 401,830,508 tons of mineable coal. This estimate of mineable reserves includes the two seams 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 adjacent State of Wyoming coal although these reserves are expected to be recovered in conjunction with the LBA tract. It also excludes coal within and along the railroad right of way as required by typical mining practices. The total mineable stripping ratio of the coal in bank cubic yards per ton is approximately 4.8:1. Potential bidders for the LBA tract should consider the recovery rate expected from thick and multiple seam mining.

The South Porcupine LBA coal is ranked as subbituminous C. The overall average quality on an as-received basis is 8,905 British Thermal Units per pound containing about 0.20 percent sulfur. 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 in this lease offering contains split estate lands. There are qualified surface owners as defined in the regulations at 43 CFR 3400.0-5(gg). Consent granted by the qualified surface owners has been filed with and verified by the BLM. The LBA tract lands included in the consent are:

T. 41 N., R. 71 W., 6th Principal Meridian

Sec. 13, lots 12 through 14 inclusive;
Sec. 14, lots 1, 2, 8, and 18; and
Sec. 24, lots 3, 4, 17, 19, and 21.

Containing 396.79 acres, more or less, in Campbell County, Wyoming.

The purchase price of the consent as stated in the consent documents is “* * * an overriding royalty of three percent (3%) of the gross realization of all coal mined and sold from the Subject Property.”

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets or exceeds the BLM's estimate of the fair market value (FMV) 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 BLM Wyoming State Office Cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after 4 p.m. local time on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, will not be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent FMV. The FMV of the tract will be determined by the Authorized Officer after the sale. The lease that may be issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3 per acre, or fraction thereof, and a royalty payment to the United States of 12.5 percent of the value of coal produced by surface mining methods. The value of the coal will be determined in accordance with 30 CFR 1206.250.

Pursuant to the regulation at 43 CFR 3473.2(f), the applicant for the South Porcupine Tract, BTU Western Resources, Inc., has paid a total case-by-case cost recovery processing fee in the amount of \$83,694. The successful bidder for the South Porcupine Tract, if someone other than the applicant, must pay to the BLM the \$83,694 previously paid by BTU Western Resources, Inc., and, in that circumstance, the BLM would then refund that amount to BTU Western Resources, Inc. Additionally, the successful bidder must pay all processing costs the BLM will incur after the date this sale notice is published in the **Federal Register**, which are estimated to be \$10,000.

Bidding instructions for the LBA tract offered and the terms and conditions of the proposed coal lease are available from the BLM Wyoming State Office at the address above. Case file documents, WYW176095, are available for inspection at the BLM Wyoming State Office.

Donald A. Simpson,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 2012-8973 Filed 4-13-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVL01000. L5110. GN0000.
LVEMF1201180; N82888, N90443; MO#
4500031854; TAS: 14X5017]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Bald Mountain Mine North and South Operations Area Projects, White Pine County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, (NEPA) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Egan Field Office, Ely, Nevada intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The proposed project is located in White Pine County, about 70 miles northwest of Ely and 30 miles northeast of Eureka, Nevada.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until 30 days after the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM web site at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Bald Mountain Mine North and South Operations Area

Projects by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* BLM_NV_EYDO_Barrick_Bald_EIS@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* (775) 289-1910.
- *Mail:* BLM Ely District, Egan Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV, 89301.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Egan Field Office, 702 N. Industrial Way, Ely, Nevada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Miles Kreidler, project lead, telephone: (775) 289-1893; email: mkreidler@blm.gov. 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 above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Bald Mountain Mine (BMM), owned by Barrick Gold US Inc., proposes to expand the existing approved mine facilities in the North Operations Project Area, and expand the existing Casino/Winrock Plan of Operations and incorporate it into the North Operations Project Area. This expansion would add four new heap leach pads and increase the total surface disturbance from 9,124 acres to 13,704 acres. Of the 13,704 total acres, 21.6 acres would be located on private land. In addition, BMM proposes an expansion of the South Operations Area Project which would encompass and expand the existing Yankee and Alligator Ridge mine sites, and would include an access road from the North Operations Area to the South Operations Area. The access road would provide a direct route for transportation of equipment and personnel between the two operational areas, and would also be used for a power line corridor. Establishing the South Operations Area Project would increase the total surface disturbance from 960 acres to 3,643 acres, all of which is on public land.

Mining has been ongoing in this area for over 20 years and a variety of different mining proposals have been analyzed under previous NEPA documents. Most recently, mine expansions were analyzed in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Bald Mountain Mine North Operations Area Project* (August 2009) and the *Mooney Heap and Little Bald Mountain Mine Expansion Project Environmental Assessment* (July 2006).