



# United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
Western Region  
1999 Broadway St., Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202-3050

June 1, 2016

Dear Stakeholders and Interested Parties,

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region Office, will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the Jim Bridger Coal Mine complex (Bridger Mine Complex) mining plan modification for federal coal lease WYW-02727 (the Project). Since 1974, in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA) and the federal mining plan approved by the Assistant Secretary for Land and Mineral Management (ASLM), the operator of the Bridger Mine Complex (currently Bridger Coal Company (BCC)) has mined portions of federal coal leases, including federal coal lease WYW-02727, in accordance with the approved surface coal mining permit issued by the state regulatory authority, the Wyoming Department of Environmental, Land Quality Division (WDEQ-LQD). On November 28, 2014, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Federal Surface Mining and Reclamation Control Act of 1977, the WDEQ-LQD approved the Amendment and Mine and Reclamation Plan Revision for surface coal mining Permit No. 388-T7, including the mining of portions of federal coal lease WYW-02727, not previously approved by the ASLM. In accordance with MLA, the ASLM must approve the mining plan modification for federal coal lease WYW-02727 before mining of the federal coal can occur.

OSMRE is preparing this EA to evaluate the environmental impacts resulting from the Project, pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The Bridger Mine Complex is located approximately 35 miles northeast of Rock Springs, Wyoming. BCC proposes to add 560 federal surface acres and 4.5 million tons of federal coal to the approved federal mining plan. The proposed mining plan modification will not change the average production rate of 2.24 million tons per year or the maximum production rate of 3.60 million tons per year for the life of the surface mining operation. This mining plan modification would extend the life of the mine by approximately 13 years, concluding in 2037.

The EA will disclose the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the environment from the Project. Through the EA, OSMRE will determine whether or not there are significant environmental impacts. If a finding of no significant impact is reached, the OSMRE Director will make a recommendation to the ASLM on the federal mining plan modification, and the ASLM will approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the federal mining plan modification. If the EA identifies significant impacts, an environmental impact statement will be prepared.

OSMRE is soliciting public comments on the Project. Your comments will help to determine the issues and alternatives that will be evaluated in the environmental analysis. You are invited to direct these comments to:

ATTN: Bridger Mine Complex EA  
C/O: Lauren Mitchell  
OSMRE Western Region  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202-3050

Comments should be received or postmarked no later than July 1, 2016 to be considered during the preparation of the EA. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Additional information regarding the Project may be obtained from Lauren Mitchell, telephone number (303) 293-5028, and the Project website provided below. When available, the EA and other supporting documentation will be posted at: <http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/BridgerMineWY2727.shtm>.

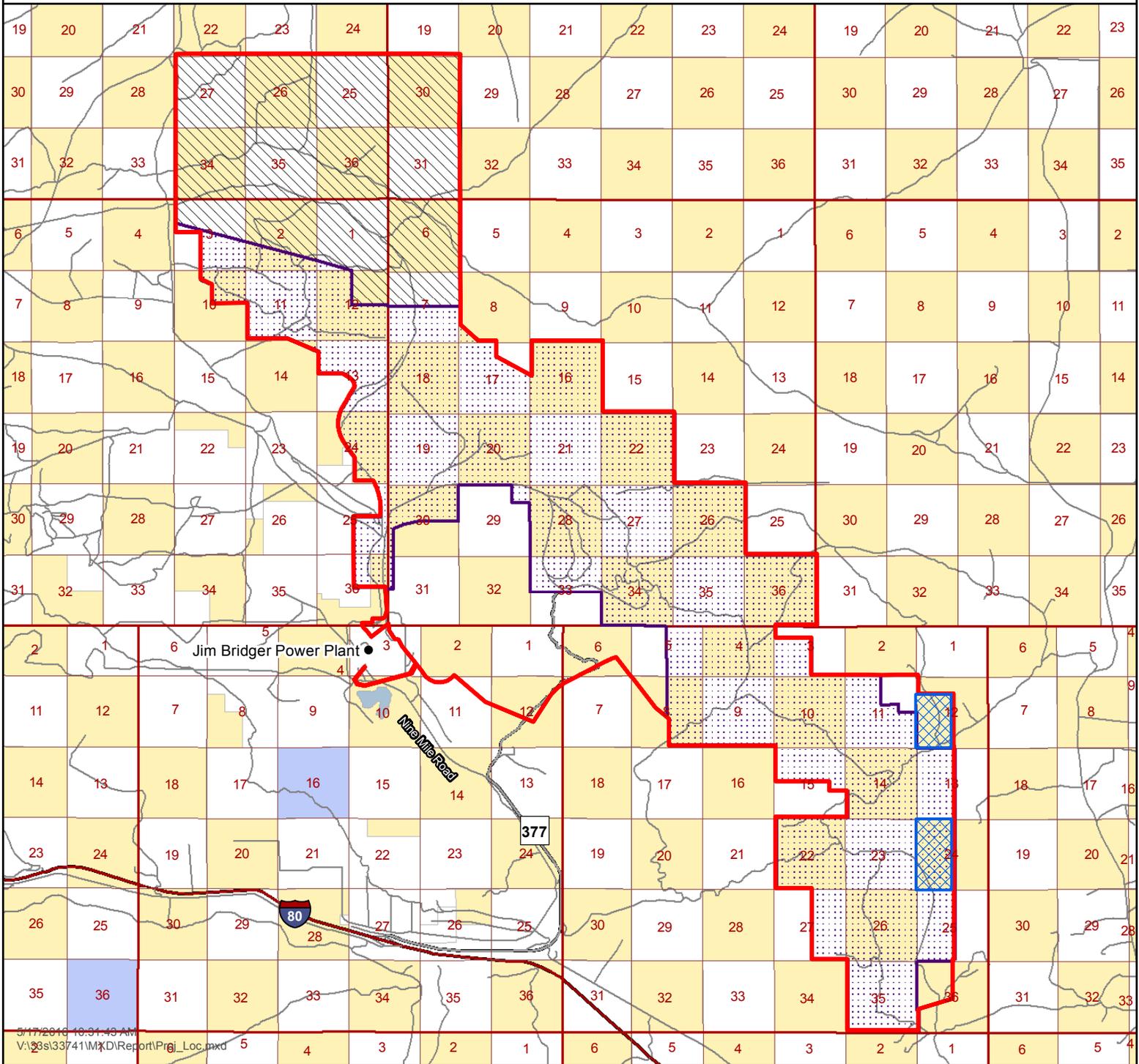
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcelo Calle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Marcelo Calle, Manager  
Field Operations Branch

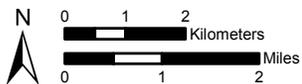
Enclosed: Project Map

# Bridger Mine Complex Mining Plan Modification for Federal Coal Lease WYW-02727 Environmental Assessment



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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bridger Coal Company Permit Boundary | Township Boundary*        |
| Project Area                         | Section Boundary*         |
| Surface Mine Area                    | Bureau of Land Management |
| Underground Mine Area                | Private                   |
|                                      | State                     |
|                                      | Water                     |



\*From BLM's CadNSDI data.

