



United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office 1999
Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050

May 8, 2020

Dear Interested Public Land User,

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region Office has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Antelope Mine's mining plan modification for federal coal lease WYW-177903 (the Project). In accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA), the DOI Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) must approve the project before any mining and reclamation can occur on lands containing leased federal coal. Antelope Coal, LLC operates the Antelope Mine under Permit No. 525, issued by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality-Land Quality Division (WDEQ-LQD) in accordance with the approved Wyoming State Coal Regulatory Program (30 CFR Part 950).

OSMRE has prepared 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 Antelope Mine is located approximately 20 miles south-southeast of Wright, Wyoming. Antelope Mine uses a truck and loader mining method. The amount of remaining recoverable federal coal authorized for removal within the currently approved federal mining plan is 409.6 million tons (Mt). The Project proposes to add approximately 856.6 acres and 14.5 Mt of federal coal to the approved federal mining plan. The annual production rate used to calculate the environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Action was 30 million tons per year (Mtpy), which is the estimated future annual production rate. This rate is below the maximum permitted production rate of 52 Mtpy set by WDEQ-Air Quality Division (AQD) Air Quality Permit No. MD-13361. Antelope Mine started operation in 1982 and the mine will continue to operate until 2039 under the current, approved mining plan. Using the estimated 30 Mtpy production rate, the Project would extend the life of the mine by approximately 0.5 year.

The EA discloses the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the environment from the Project. As a result of the EA process, OSMRE has determined that there will be no significant environmental impacts and has issued an unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review online at: <https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/westAntelopeMine.shtm>

Printed versions of the EA and unsigned FONSI are available upon request.

You are invited to direct your comments on the EA and unsigned OSMRE FONSI to:

ATTN: West Antelope II South Modification EA
C/O: Gretchen Pinkham
OSMRE Western Region
P.O. Box 25065
Lakewood, CO 80225-0065

Comments may also be emailed to: osm-nepa-wy@osmre.gov. Be sure to send emails with the subject line: **ATTN: West Antelope II South Modification EA**. All comments must be received or postmarked by June 8, 2020 to be considered.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – will be publicly available. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public review to the extent consistent with applicable law.

Additional information regarding this Project may be obtained from Gretchen Pinkham at (303) 293-5088.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth Shaeffer", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Elizabeth Shaeffer, Manager
Field Operations Branch

Enclosed: Project Map

