

**Availability of an Environmental Assessment for Public Review and Comment
Belle Ayr Mine Mining Federal Coal Lease Modification**

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations and the Department of the Interior procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 42 U.S.C. 43332(2) (C), the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed mining plan modification for the Belle Ayr North Tract at the Belle Ayr Mine. OSMRE is responsible for reviewing plans to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on lands containing leased federal coal. Pursuant to 30 CFR 746, OSMRE must prepare and submit to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM), a decision document recommending approval, conditional approval, or disapproval of the proposed mining plan modification. ASLM approval of a mining plan modification would authorize mining activities to produce up to 20 million tons (Mt) per year of coal from Belle Ayr Mine Federal Coal Lease WYW161248 and disturb an additional 1,481.8 acres of land. Contura Coal West, LLC owns and operates the Belle Ayr Coal Mine, which is located in Campbell County, Wyoming, approximately 10 miles southwest of Gillette, Wyoming.

OSMRE invites the public to comment on the EA and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI). The EA and unsigned FONSI will be available for review as of June 9, 2017. All comments must be post marked by July 10, 2017 for consideration.

The EA and unsigned FONSI can be reviewed online at the following OSMRE website:

<https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/belleAyrMine.shtm>

A hard copy of the EA and unsigned FONSI will also be available for review at the following locations:

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Western Region
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202
Between the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday
(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Campbell County Courthouse
500 S. Gillette Ave.
Gillette, WY 82716
Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday
(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Campbell County Public Library
2101 S 4-J Rd
Gillette, WY 82718
Between the hours of 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; between the hours of 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Wednesday and Friday; and between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM, Saturday
(Closed Sunday)

You are invited to direct your comments to:

ATTN: Belle Ayr North Tract EA
C/O: Gretchen Pinkham
OSMRE WR
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202

Comments may also be emailed to: osm-nepa-wy@osmre.gov. Be sure to send emails with the subject line:

ATTN: Belle Ayr North Tract EA

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 or at gpinkham@osmre.gov.