



United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

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

July 3, 2019

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Chairperson Travis Parashonts
Cedar Band of Paiutes
600 North 100 East
PO Box 235
Cedar City, UT 84721

Dear Chairperson Parashonts,

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region is releasing a notice of Record of Decision (ROD) to notify the public of OSMRE's decision to adopt the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Alton Coal Lease by Application (LBA) at the Coal Hollow Mine owned by Alton Coal Development, LLC in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, Department of the Interior (DOI) regulations for implementing NEPA; DOI Department Manual Part 516; and OSMRE guidance on implementing NEPA, including the *OSMRE Handbook on Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act* to carry out its duties under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1929 and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 and implementing regulations.

A FEIS for Alton Coal Lease by Application (DOI-BLM-UT-C040-2015-0011-EIS) was prepared by the BLM Kanab Field Office in July 2018. OSMRE along with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, State of Utah Agencies, and Kane County participated as cooperating agencies. OSMRE is adopting the FEIS and has prepared a record of decision (ROD).

It is OSMRE's decision to adopt the BLM Alton Coal Lease by Application FEIS (2018), as allowed under 40 CFR § 1506.3. Consistent with the BLM's decision, OSMRE is selecting Alternative K1, as described in the FEIS (Section 2.5), based on the agencies consideration of: the purpose and need for the action; the issues; current policies and regulations; the analysis of alternatives contained in the FEIS; public comments received and other information in the project record.

The Notice of Adoption and ROD were filed by OSMRE with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and posted in the Federal Register on July 5, 2019.

Documents are available online at:

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

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPageId=118876>

Project Description

The Coal Hollow surface and underground coal mine is located three miles south from Alton, in Kane County, Utah. The mine has been in operation since 2010 with mining occurring in the South Private Lease area in private and fee surface and minerals. Alternative K1 as analyzed in the FEIS would add 2,114 acres of which approximately 1,227 acres are federal surface and mineral estate and 887 acres are split estate (private surface and federal mineral estate) for surface and underground mining activities. Under Alternative K1, the lease to be mined contains approximately 40.9 million tons of coal and an estimated 30.8 million tons of coal will be recoverable. The lease would produce approximately 2 million tons per year and continuing mining operations by approximately 16 years.

The analysis completed in the FEIS will help to inform OSMRE current and future mining plan decision documents (MPDDs). Current and future MPDDs comprising the remaining Federal lease acreage analyzed in the BLM 2018 FEIS would require additional NEPA compliance reviews by OSMRE after the permit revisions are submitted to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Future reviews would utilize the current adoption of the BLM 2018 FEIS and OSMRE would be required to determine if additional NEPA analysis is warranted based on new information or circumstances. This type of NEPA compliance review is referred to as “staging” and is a common practice among Federal agencies when a larger Proposed Action is being broken into smaller parts.

OSMRE is currently preparing a MPDD for the LBA Block 1 area. The LBA Block 1 area is a mixture of private surface and private minerals and split estate consisting of private surface and Federal minerals. LBA Block 1 is completely within the South Private Lease, but is also within a small portion of Federal Lease UTU-081895. Alton Coal Development, LLC is not proposing to mine the entire lease at this point in time and instead is requesting to mine from a portion of it named the LBA Block 1 area. If the mining plan modification was approved, it would authorize mining of approximately 1.2 million tons of recoverable Federal coal using pit and highwall mining methods. The LBA Block 1 area consists of approximately 60.2 acres of which 46.6 acres are split estate (private surface and Federal minerals, within UTU-081895), and 13.6 acres are

private surface and private mineral. Federal coal from the split estate of LBA Block 1 area would be mined over one and a half to two years.

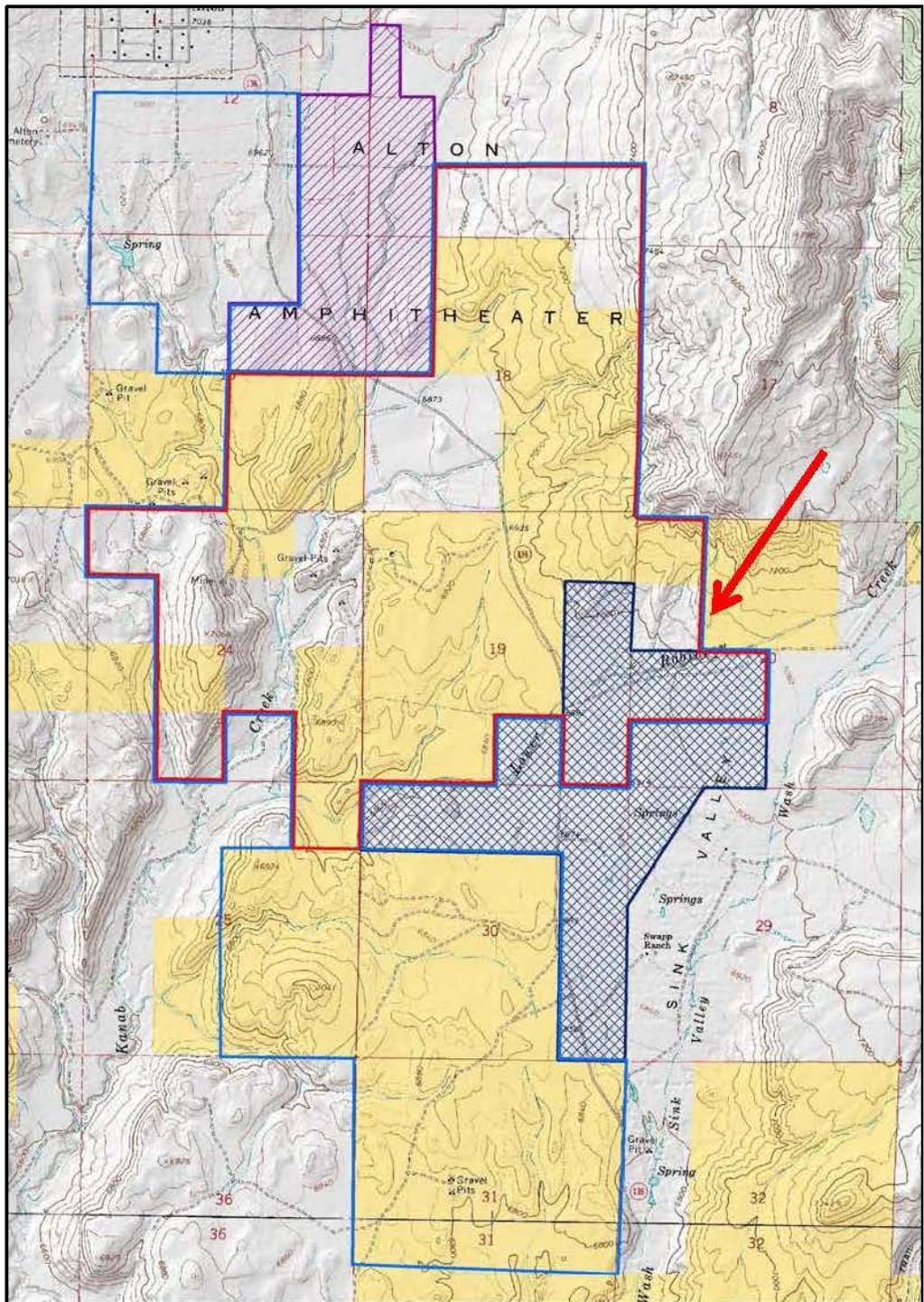
If you have questions about the OSMRE process, please contact Gretchen Pinkham, telephone number (303) 293-5088 and email gpinkham@osmre.gov.

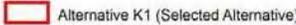
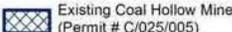
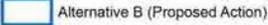
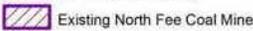
Sincerely,

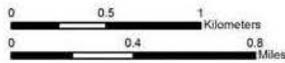
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mychal Yellowman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mychal Yellowman
Tribal Liaison Officer,
Manager, Indian Programs Branch
OSMRE - Western Region

Enclosure



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|---|--|--|
|  Alternative K1 (Selected Alternative) |  Existing Coal Hollow Mine (Permit # C/025/005) |  BLM |
|  Alternative B (Proposed Action) |  Existing North Fee Coal Mine |  Private |
| | |  USFS |



Basemap from the Alton and Bald Knoll, UT, USGS 7.5' quadrangles.
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Coordinate System: UTM
 Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83)

No warranty is made by the BLM for use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.
 This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.

