



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

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



July 6, 2017

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 Cordero Rojo Mine Duvall Tract federal mining plan modification (the Project). This EA has been prepared to support a decision by OSMRE as to whether a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) can be reached for a proposed mining plan modification for the Project. 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 an estimated 55.8 million tons (Mt) of coal at an estimated rate of 20 Mt per year from Cordero Mining Company (CMC) Federal Coal Lease WYW174407 and add an additional 852.1 acres of surface disturbance.

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 current state mine permit, approved in 2017, encompasses 22,537 acres with 19,776 acres to be affected, including the Duvall tract. Since 2012, the annual production rate has ranged from a high of about 39.2 Mt in 2012 to a low of about 18.3 Mt in 2016. Due to the uncertainty in determining the demand for coal, the EA will be prepared assuming that the average annual production rate would be 20 Mt. Based on remaining coal reserves and the estimated future production rate; mining at the Cordero Rojo Mine would be completed in approximately 11 years if the Project is not approved. The Project will add approximately 55.8 Mt of recoverable federal coal to the Cordero Rojo Mine. The approval would extend the life of mine by approximately 2.8 years.

The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review online at:

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

Printed versions of the EA and unsigned FONSI are also 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 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM, Monday to Thursday; between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Friday and Saturday (Closed Sunday)

You are invited to direct your comments on the EA and unsigned OSMRE FONSI to: ATTN: Cordero Rojo Mine Amendment EA, C/O: Logan Sholar, OSMRE WR, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, CO 80202-3050. Comments may also be emailed to: osm-nepa-wy@osmre.gov. Be sure to send emails with the subject line: **ATTN: Cordero Rojo Mine Amendment EA**. All comments must be received or postmarked by August 7, 2017 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 Logan Sholar at (303) 293-5036 or lsholar@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Shaeffer" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Elizabeth Shaeffer, Manager
Field Operations Branch

Enclosed: Project Map

