



# 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 4, 2017

Dear Stakeholders and Interested Parties,

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region Office, has prepared an EA for the Dry Fork Mine (DFM) mining plan modification for federal coal leases W-0271200 and W-0271201 (the Project). On June 2, 1989, in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA), the operator of the DFM, Dry Fork Coal Co. (currently Western Fuels Wyoming) received federal mining plan approval from the Assistant Secretary of Lands and Mineral Management (ASLM) to mine portions of federal coal leases W-0271200 and W-0271201 at the DFM, in accordance with the approved surface coal mining Permit No. 599 issued by the state regulatory authority; the Wyoming Department of Environmental, Land Quality Division (WDEQ-LQD). The DFM also has approval from WDEQ-LQD and the ASLM to mine federal coal lease W-5035 and portions of federal coal leases W-0271199 and W-0311810. On August 19, 2013, in accordance with its responsibilities under the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, the WDEQ-LQD approved Amendment 2 (A2Tr1) for surface coal mining Permit No. 599, including the mining of portions of federal coal leases W-0271200 and W-0271201, not previously approved by the ASLM. In accordance with MLA, the ASLM must approve the mining plan modification for federal coal leases W-0271200 and W-0271201 before mining of the federal coal can occur.

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 DFM is located approximately 4.5 miles north of Gillette, Wyoming. Through the end of 2015, the total amount of federal coal authorized for removal at the DFM was approximately 255.1 million tons (Mt) and an estimated 190.3 Mt of coal remained to be mined. A2Tr1 proposes to add zero federal surface acres, approximately 268 federal coal acres, and 32 Mt of federal coal to the approved federal mining plan. The DFM conducts open pit surface coal mine using conventional truck and loader methods. The average production rate at the DFM is approximately 6 million tons per year (Mtpy) and the maximum production rate is 15 Mtpy. A2Tr1 would not change the average production rate or the maximum production rate for the life of the mining operation. This mining plan modification would extend the life of the mine by approximately 5.3 years, concluding in 2053.

The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review online at:  
<http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/DryForkMineA2.shtm>.

Printed versions of the EA and unsigned FONSI are also available for review at the following locations:

- OSMRE, 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 to 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 to 9:00 PM Monday through Thursday, Friday and Saturday –  
Between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Sunday – Between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM

You are invited to direct your comments on the EA and unsigned OSMRE FONSI to: ATTN: Dry Fork Mine A2Tr1 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](mailto:osm-nepa-wy@osmre.gov), ensure the subject line reads: **ATTN: OSMRE, Dry Fork Mine A2Tr1 EA**. All comments must be received or postmarked by June 2, 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](mailto:lsholar@osmre.gov).

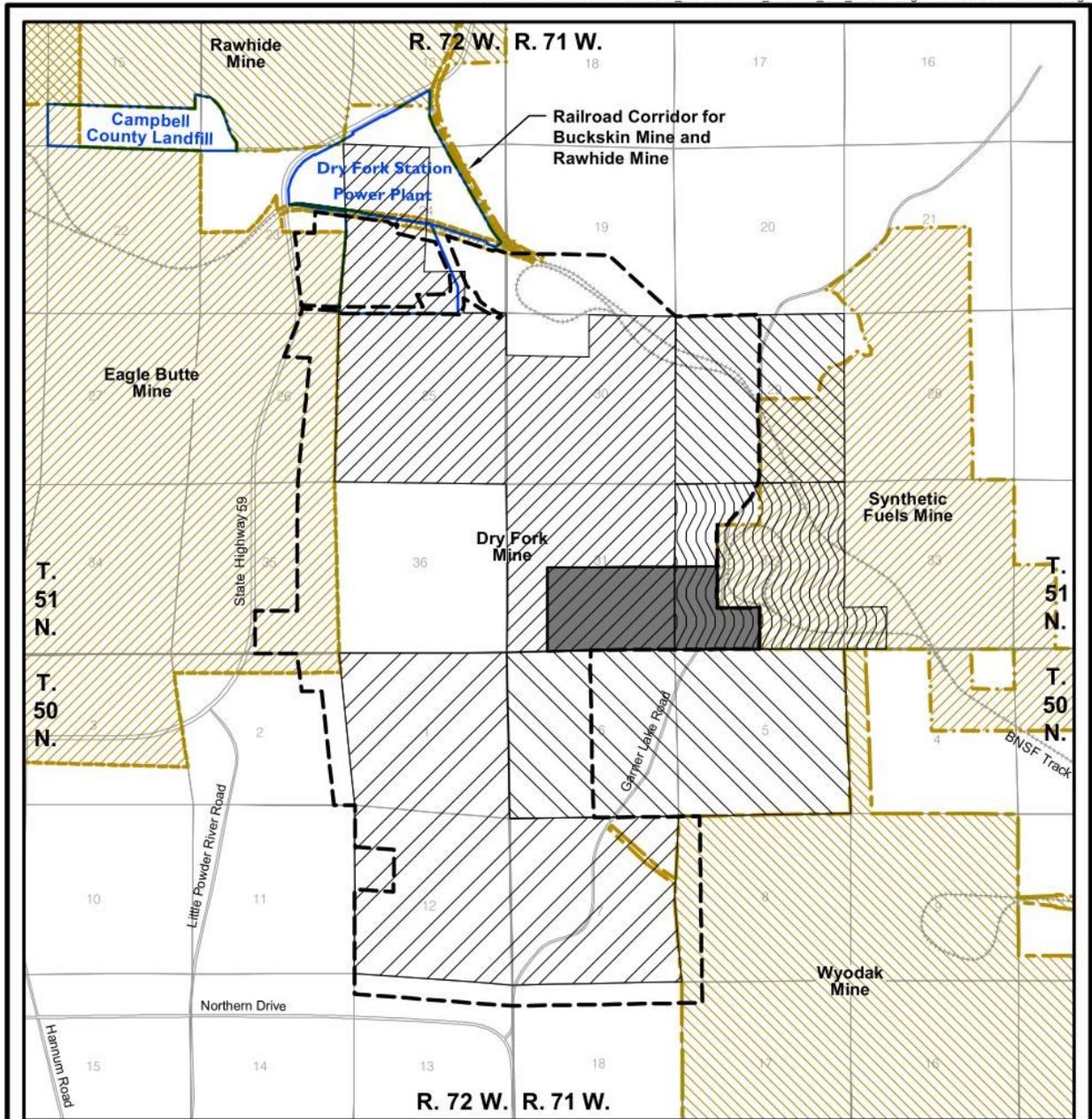
Sincerely,



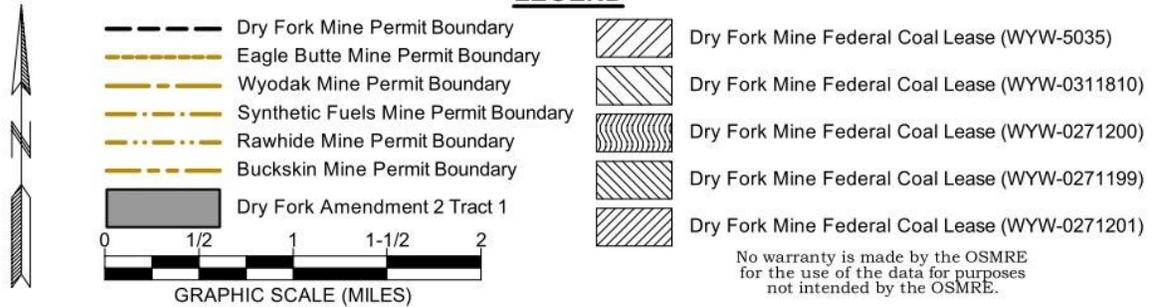
Elizabeth Shaeffer, Manager

Field Operations Branch

Enclosed: Project Map



**LEGEND**



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