



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 10, 2019

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 Dry Fork Mine's (DFM) mining plan modification for federal coal lease WYW-0311810 (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. Western Fuels-Wyoming Inc. operates the DFM under Permit No. PT0599, issued by Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ)-Land Quality Division (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 DFM is located approximately 4.5 miles north of Gillette, Wyoming. The DFM 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 approximately 204 million tons (Mt). The Project proposes to add approximately 656.4 acres and 58.1 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 will be 6.0 million tons per year (Mtpy), which is the estimated future annual production rate suggested by DFM and is below the maximum permitted production rate of 15 Mtpy set by WDEQ-Air Quality Division (AQD) Air Quality Permit No. P0023278. DFM started operation in 1990 and the mine will continue to operate until 2054 under the current, approved mining plan. Using the estimated 6.0 Mtpy production rate, the Project would extend the life of the mine by approximately 9.7 years, to 2064.

The EA discloses the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the environment from the Project. As a result of the EA process, OSMRE has determined that there 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/dryForkMine/dryForkMineA3EA.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 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 on the EA and unsigned FONSI to:

ATTN: Dry Fork Mine A3 EA
C/O: Gretchen Pinkham, OSMRE Western Region
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: OSMRE Dry Fork Mine A3 Tract EA**. All comments must be received or postmarked
by August 8, 2019 to be considered. Additional information regarding the Project may be obtained
from Gretchen Pinkham at (303) 293-5088 or gpinkham@osmre.gov.

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.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Shaeffer, Manager
Field Operations Branch

Enclosed: Project Map

