



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 10, 2019

NAME
ADDRESS

Dear NAME,

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).

As required by NEPA, the EA discloses the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the environment from the Project. In accordance with the 2011 DOI Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes and 36 CFR Part 800.2(c)(2)(ii), the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended [NHPA]), OSMRE requests continued consultation with your tribe for the stages of the proposal development and implementation of the final federal action.

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>.

If you are interested, we would be willing to meet with you at your convenience to discuss the proposed mining plan modification and its impacts, including any concerns you may have regarding the NHPA. If you wish to provide comments please send those to:

ATTN: Dry Fork Mine A3 EA
C/O: Gretchen Pinkham, OSMRE Western Region
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320,
Denver, CO 80202-3050

You also have the option to submit comments and/or questions to: osm-nepa-wy@osmre.gov. Be sure to send the email with the subject line: **ATTN: OSMRE, Dry Fork Mine A3 EA**. We would appreciate receiving any comments by August 8, 2019. Additional information regarding the Project may be obtained from Gretchen Pinkham, telephone number (303) 293-5088, and the Project website provided below.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this Project. If this letter has not been sent to the correct representative, please help us update our records. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (303) 293-5025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Shaeffer", followed by a horizontal line.

Elizabeth Shaeffer, Manager
Field Operations Branch

Attachment: Location Map

