

**Availability of a Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Public Review and Comment Federal Coal Lease Tract NDM-107039 Mining Plan Modification**

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations and the Department of the Interior procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 42 U.S.C. 43332(2) (C), the

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region Office, has prepared a supplemental environmental assessment (EA) to analyze environmental impacts of a Federal mining plan approval for future mining operations into the Federal Coal Lease Tract NDM-107039, held by The Falkirk Mining Company. The Falkirk Mine is located in McLean County, near Underwood, North Dakota. The Federal Coal Lease Tract NDM-107039 is located in east ½ of section 10, Township 146 North, Range 82 West, McLean County. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) held a competitive sale for the NDM-107039 lease on October 17, 2017, which was awarded to The Falkirk Mining Company; the effective date the lease was issued is January 1, 2018. The OSMRE prepared the supplemental EA, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The supplemental EA is tiered to the descriptions and environmental analysis contained in the BLM Environmental Assessment for The Falkirk Mining Company Federal Coal Lease by Application for Tract NDM-107039 and is incorporated by reference into this supplemental EA in accordance with 40 CFR 46.135 and available to the public at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/67410/105731/129311/DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2016-0020-EA.pdf>.

OSMRE is responsible for reviewing plans to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on lands containing leased federal coal. Pursuant to 30 CFR 746, OSMRE must prepare and submit to the ASLM a decision document recommending approval, conditional approval or disapproval of the proposed mining plan modification. Approval of a mining plan would authorize surface mining of recoverable Federal coal in the lease of 2.2 million tons. Falkirk Mine anticipates production between 8.0 and 8.5 million tons annually. If the mining plan is approved, mining operations would extend approximately 7 months.

OSMRE is soliciting public comments on the supplemental EA and the unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The supplemental EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review as of February 9, 2018. All comments must be received or postmarked by March 12, 2018, to be considered. Documents are available for review online <https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/falkirkMine.shtm>.

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

Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202  
Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

You are invited to direct these comments by mail:

ATTN: OSMRE, Falkirk Mine Supplemental EA  
C/O: Gretchen Pinkham OSMRE WR  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202

Comments can also be emailed to [osm-nepa-nd@osmre.gov](mailto:osm-nepa-nd@osmre.gov) with the subject line: ATTN: OSMRE, Falkirk

Mine Supplemental EA. 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 Gretchen Pinkham at (303) 293-5088 or [gpinkham@osmre.gov](mailto:gpinkham@osmre.gov).