



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



March 22, 2017

RE: Notice of Intent to Initiate Public Scoping and Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the San Juan Mine Federal Coal Lease NM-99144, Deep Lease Extension Mining Plan Modification

Dear Interested Party,

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will analyze the impacts of the San Juan Coal Company's (SJCC or the Company) proposed mining plan modification for the Deep Lease Extension (DLE) at the existing underground San Juan Mine, located near Waterflow, New Mexico (NM) (see attached Figure). The EIS will also analyze the effects of coal combustion at the Public Service Company of New Mexico's San Juan Generating Station (SJGS or the Generating Station). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the scope of the EIS, alternatives to be considered, and resources that should be addressed in the EIS.

The underground operations at San Juan Mine use longwall mining methods consisting of one longwall miner and continuous miner in the development portion of the Mine. Underground mining occurs within multiple state and federal lease areas at the San Juan Mine; these are generally referred to as the Deep Lease and DLE Areas. Since authorization in 2008, the Company has mined approximately 18 million tons of coal in the DLE. The mine currently employs approximately 360 people. The permit area previously approved by the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division on October 22, 1999 would not increase from its present approximate size of 17,726 acres. A total of approximately 15,404 acres of federally owned coal remains within the current San Juan Mine permit area, approximately 4,484 acres of which is within the DLE. The 2008 mining plan modification would not increase any acres of federal surface lands or any acres of federal coal to the approved permit area, but would authorize the recovery of approximately 36.6 million tons of federal coal from 4,484 acres of federal coal from the DLE. The remaining coal reserves in the DLE and other approved mining areas will allow the mine to continue operating at the anticipated mining rates until approximately 2033. The post-mining land use remains grazing and wildlife habitat.

OSMRE is soliciting public comments on the proposed Project, scope of the EIS, and the significant issues that should be analyzed in the EIS. Interested persons may view information about the proposed Project on the OSMRE website at: <https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/sanJuanMine.shtm>. The website contains information related to: the Company's proposed mining plan modification for the DLE project; the public comment period; the locations, dates, and times of public scoping meetings; and the NEPA/EIS process.



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This notice initiates the public scoping process. To ensure consideration in developing the Draft EIS, we must receive your electronic or written comments by **May 8, 2017**. OSMRE will host public scoping meetings where written and oral comments may be submitted at the following times and locations:

- On Monday, April 10th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center at 2401 12th St. NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- On Tuesday, April 11th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Ute Community Center at 785 Sunset Road, Towaoc, Colorado.
- On Wednesday, April 12th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Shiprock High School approximately a half-mile west on US-64 from US-491 in Shiprock, New Mexico.
- On Thursday, April 13th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Farmington City Civic Center at 200 West Arrington St., Farmington, New Mexico.
- On Friday, April 14th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Durango Community Recreation Center at 2700 Main Avenue, Durango, Colorado.

Comments may be submitted in writing or by e-mail. At the top of your letter or in the subject line of your e-mail message, please indicate that the comments are “San Juan EIS Comments.”

- E-mail comments should be sent to: osm-nepa-nm@osmre.gov
- Comments delivered by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or by courier service must be delivered by **May 8, 2017**, and should be sent to:

Gretchen Pinkham, OSMRE
C/O Catalyst Environmental Solutions
P.O. Box 56539
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

For further information about the Project, NEPA Process, or to have your name added to the mailing list, contact: Gretchen Pinkham, OSMRE Project Manager, at 303-293-5088 or osm-nepa-nm@osmre.gov.

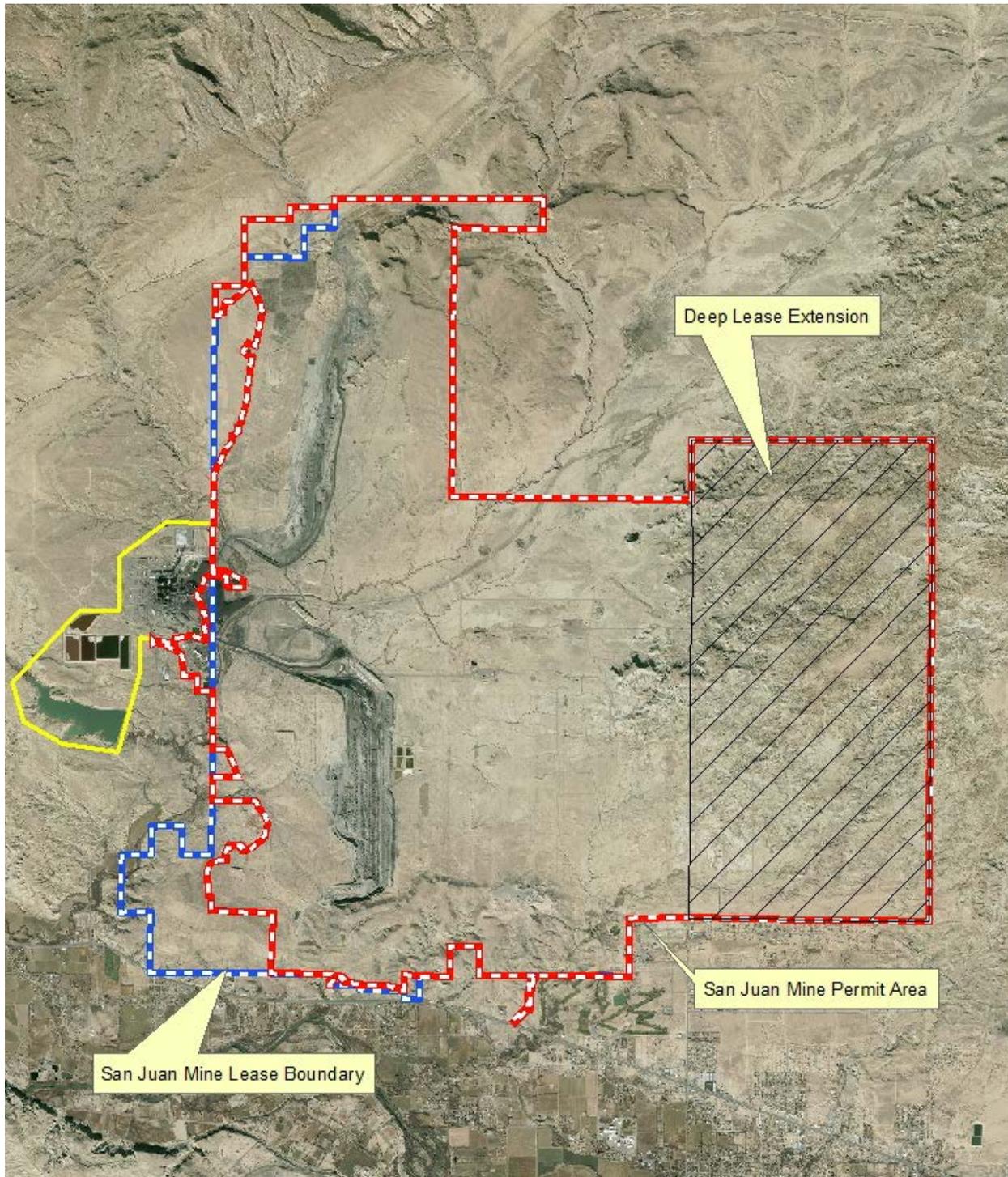
Sincerely,

Marcelo Calle, Manager
Program Support Division



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-  Deep Lease Extension
-  San Juan Mine Lease Boundary
-  San Juan Mine Permit Boundary
-  San Juan Generating Station

Figure: Proposed Deep Lease Extension within Existing San Juan Mine Permit Area