

[CA-020-5101-10-B039; CACA-31406, NVN-57250]

### Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior, Susanville District Office, California.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) have prepared a final Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for the Alturas 345 kilovolt (KV) transmission line project proposed by Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPCo) in BLM application number CACA-31406. The final EIR/S has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act.

The BLM and CPUC believe that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigation measures, has the potential to significantly impact the environment. The final EIR/S includes an evaluation of the proposed project. The final EIR/S assesses the environmental impacts of the approval, construction, operation and maintenance of a 345KV overhead electric power transmission line approximately 165 miles long, from the vicinity of Alturas, California through Modoc, Lassen, and Sierra Counties, California, through Washoe County, Nevada to the vicinity of Reno, Nevada. The proposed project would affect Federal, State and private lands. The proposed project also includes the construction of two new electrical substations, one northwest of Alturas and one in Sierra County, California, just west of Border Town, Nevada, and the expansion of SPPCo's existing North Valley Road Substation.

The final EIR/S responds to public and agency comments received on the draft EIR/S. The final EIR/S has been placed in the public files of the CPUC and the BLM, and is available for public inspection at:

California Public Utilities Commission,  
Central Files, 505 Van Ness Avenue,  
San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 703-2045

Bureau of Land Management, Susanville District Office, 705 Hall Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (916) 257-5381

Copies of the final EIR/S are also available for inspection at BLM offices in Alturas and Susanville, California, in Carson City, Nevada, and Washington, D.C.; at the Modoc National Forest in Alturas and the Toiyabe National Forest in Sparks, NV; at public libraries in Alturas, Susanville and Reno, and at the City Hall in Loyalton. Copies have also

been sent to interested Federal, State and local agencies, as well as interested groups and individuals. An Executive Summary of the key issues and impacts addressed in the EIR/S will be available upon request.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** Request for the Executive Summary should be addressed to: Peter Humm, Project Manager; Bureau of Land Management; 705 Hall Street, Susanville, California 96130.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** This Federal Notice of Availability of a Final EIR/S is issued by the Eagle Lake Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 705 Hall Street, Susanville, California 96130. For further information write to the Area Manager or call Peter Humm, BLM Project Manager, at (916) 257-0456.

Dated: November 13, 1995.

Linda D. Hansen,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 95-28676 Filed 11-22-95; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-40-M**

[WY-060-1320-01], WYW127221]

### Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the North Rochelle Tract coal lease application (originally named the North Roundup Tract) in the decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming

**SUMMARY:** SMC Mining Company has applied for a coal lease for approximately 1,439 acres (approximately 140 million tons of coal) in an area adjacent to the North Rochelle Mine in Campbell County, Wyoming. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has recommended that approximately 81 additional acres containing approximately 9 million tons of coal be included in the tract to avoid a potential bypass situation in the future. The BLM has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared to evaluate the environmental impacts of coal mining which would result from issuance of this lease. The application will be processed according to the coal lease by application (LBA) regulations at 43 CFR 3425.

**DATES:** As part of this process a public scoping meeting has been scheduled on Tuesday, December 5, 1995, at 7 PM at the Tower West Lodge, 109 North U.S. Highway 14-16, in Gillette, Wyoming. In order to insure that comments will be considered in the draft EIS they should be received by the BLM at the address below by December 31, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions, comments or concerns should be addressed to the Casper District Office, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 1701 East E Street, Casper, Wyoming 82601.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Doelger or Mike Karbs, phone: 307-261-7600 or at the above address.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** SMC Mining Company filed a coal lease application on July 22, 1992, with the BLM pursuant to the provisions of 43 CFR 3425.1 as a maintenance tract LBA for the following lands, which contain an estimated 140 million tons of coal:

*T. 42 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming*

Sec. 4: Lots 5-16, 19, and 20;

Sec. 5: Lots 5-16;

Sec. 9: Lot 1;

*T. 43 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming*

Sec. 32: Lots 9-11, 14-16;

Sec. 33: Lots 11-14.

Containing 1439.92 acres, more or less.

The BLM has recommended that the following additional lands containing an additional estimated 9 million tons of coal reserves be included in the application:

*T. 43 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming*

Sec. 32: Lots 12 and 13.

Containing 81.16 acres, more or less.

The tract as amended by the BLM contains a total of 1521.08 acres and approximately 149 million tons of coal. The lease application area is west of and contiguous with SMC Mining Company's existing North Rochelle Mine and Thunder Basin Coal Company's Black Thunder Mine. The North Rochelle Mine began producing coal in 1990. There are currently no mine facilities or rail facilities at the North Rochelle Mine. Coal is produced by truck and shovel and the produced coal is hauled by truck from the mine site to a contracted buyer. The company has applied to lease the proposed North Rochelle Tract (initially called the North Roundup Tract) as a maintenance tract for the North Rochelle Mine.

The North Rochelle Mine has an approved mining and reclamation plan and an air quality permit allowing it to mine up to 8 million tons of coal per year. The potential impacts of the North Rochelle Mine, including construction of mine facilities and a rail loop, were previously analyzed in an EIS completed in 1983 by the Office of Surface Mining (OSM). The EIS to be prepared to evaluate the impacts of the maintenance lease application will include an evaluation of the impacts of starting up a full-scale mining operation at this time.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS because the surface of some of the lands included in the tract is owned by the Federal government and administered by the USFS as part of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. The OSM will also be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS, because it is the Federal agency that administers surface coal mining operations under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

The major issues, identified to date, revolve around air quality, hydrology, reclamation, and socio-economics as they relate to facilities and rail construction, and the start-up of a full-scale mining operation. If other issues or concerns are known, please address them in writing to the above individuals, or verbally at the public scoping meeting scheduled on December 5 in Gillette, Wyoming. Written comments will be accepted by the BLM at the address shown above from the date of publication of this Notice in the Federal Register, through December 31, 1995.

Pamela J. Lewis,

*Chief, Leasable Minerals Section.*

[FR Doc. 95-28654 Filed 11-22-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

[D-930-1020-01]

**Notice of Intent To Simultaneously Modify all Idaho Management Framework Plans (MFPs) and Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) To Adopt Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management in Idaho and To Include Ecosystem-Based Management Strategies From the Upper Columbia River Basin (UCRB) EIS**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to modify land use plans and to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to adopt standards for rangeland health and guidelines for grazing management in Idaho and to adopt ecosystem-based management strategies from the Upper Columbia River Basin (UCRB) EIS.

The Challis proposed RMP/Draft EIS currently in progress will be published in the winter of 1995 and the Bennett Hills, and Owyhee Proposed RMPs currently in progress are scheduled for draft EIS publication in the spring of 1996. Notice is given that Standards for

Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management will be included in these respective plans.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Idaho intends to modify all existing MFPs and RMPs in the State and to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for adoption of Standards Rangeland Health (terrestrial and riparian) and Guidelines for Grazing Management as provided in the BLM's new grazing regulations (43 CFR Part 4100). In addition, all Land Use Plans would be amended to include ecosystem-based management strategy from the Upper Columbia River Basin (UCRB) EIS and the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Assessment. This strategy will include standards, specific objectives, and management guidelines focusing on restoring the health of forest, range, aquatic, and riparian ecosystems. Public comment is sought on the issues and alternatives to be considered, and on proposed standards and guidelines.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing within 30 days following the date of the last scoping meeting to receive full consideration in the development of alternatives. Dates of those meetings will be published in local and regional newspapers.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

J. David Brunner, Bureau of Land Management, 3380 Americana Terrace, Boise, Idaho 83706; Phone 208-384-3056.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM's new grazing administration regulations (43 CFR part 4100 59FR) which became effective August 21, 1995, require the development of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. In Idaho, BLM intends to develop these standards and guidelines through a public process and incorporate them into MFPs/RMPs. Incorporating standards and guidelines into existing plans will require some form of plan modification, ranging from simple plan maintenance to plan amendment.

Management Framework Plans (MFPs) to be modified are as follows: Kuna, Bruneau, Owyhee, Twin Falls, Malad, Big Lost, Little Lost Birch Creek, Big Desert, Ellis-Pahsimeroi, Challis, Mackay, Sun Valley, Bennett Hills, Timmerman, Magic, Emerald Empire and Chief Joseph (Bennett Hills, Challis and Owyhee are scheduled to be replaced by RMPs which are currently under development). Resource Management Plans (RMPs) to be modified are as follows: Cascade,

Jarbridge, Cassia, Medicine Lodge, Pocatello, Lemhi and Monument.

At this point, it uncertain what level of plan modification will be needed; plan maintenance or plan amendment.

This notice invites Public comment on the proposal to develop standards and guidelines and issues to be addressed and alternatives to be considered in the EIS or other NEPA analysis.

Issues preliminarily identified include: the effect that adoption of the standards will have on uses of public land, the effect that adoption of the proposed guidelines will have on grazing management and livestock operations, and riparian and aquatic ecosystems and the need for flexibility in standards and guidelines. Additional issues have been identified in the UCRB EIS. It is expected that the ecosystem management strategy being analyzed in the UCRB EIS will provide a broad framework within which Healthy Reangelands Standards and Guides will be developed.

The NEPA analysis will be conducted using an interdisciplinary team that includes persons trained in archaeology, economics, plant ecology, forestry, hydrology, soil science, range management, recreation and fish and wildlife management.

Three preliminary alternatives have been identified: the continuation of current management (no action alternative) as provided for in existing land use plans, application of the fall back standards and guidelines contained in the regulations, and the adoption of standards and guidelines developed locally and in consultation with Idaho BLM's three Resource Advisory Councils.

Dated: November 13, 1995.

J. David Brunner,

*Deputy State Director for Resource Services.*

[FR Doc. 95-28689 Filed 11-22-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1020-GG-M

[ID-030-1030-00]

**Intent to Prepare Forest Plan Amendments to the Deep Creek Management Framework Plan and the Pocatello Resource Management Plan, Idaho**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare Forest Plan Amendments to the Deep Creek Management Framework Plan and The Pocatello Resource Management Plan.