

**Bureau of Indian Affairs****Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Yellowstone Pipeline Easement Renewal Across Trust and Allotted Lands on the Flathead Indian Reservation, MT**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed easement renewal on tribal and allotted lands on the Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana, for an existing petroleum products pipeline from Billings, Montana, to Spokane and Moses Lake, Washington, is now available for public review. This notice is furnished in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, 40 CFR 1503 and 1506.9.

**DATES:** The public comment period closes on December 24, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be addressed to: Mr. Ernest Moran, Superintendent, Flathead Agency, Box A, Pablo, MT 59855. Copies of the FEIS are also available at this address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Ernest Moran at the above address, by telephone at (406) 675-7200 ext. 260, or toll-free at (800) 695-9305.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Yellowstone Pipe Line Company (YPL) had a lease agreement with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation (CSKT) for an easement from April 21, 1975, to April 21, 1995, across trust lands. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which acts as the federal trustee for the lands, approved the lease. The YPL wishes to renew the lease in order to continue using the pipeline through the year 2016. The FEIS describes the proposed action, alternatives and affected environment, and evaluates potential impacts.

The Proposed Action, is the renewal of YPL's existing easement across trust lands, with added pipeline safety improvements. The action would allow the YPL to continue serving the needs of military and civilian consumers in the greater Spokane area for petroleum products. The 10-inch pipeline currently supplies approximately 34 percent of all consumer gasoline and diesel fuel to the Spokane market, 100 percent of the military jet fuel to the Fairchild Air Force Base, and 100 percent of the commercial jet fuel to the Grant County Airport, which supports the Boeing Aircraft and the Japan Air Lines pilot test programs.

The FEIS includes two alternatives, No Action and a Modified Existing Route Alternative. The No Action alternative would not renew the easement. Petroleum products would thus have to be transported to the Spokane markets by means which cost more and pose more risk to the environment than would the upgrading and use of the existing pipeline.

The Modified Existing Route Alternative has safety improvements similar to those for the Proposed Action, but re-routes the pipeline around areas where it may be unusually vulnerable to rupture from natural hazards, and where the concentration of people and resources that a pipeline rupture would adversely affect is unusually high. The BIA has designated this as the Preferred Alternative.

The BIA has afforded the public the opportunity to participate in the preparation of this FEIS. The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on September 15, 1994. Seven scoping meetings followed between September 29, 1994, and November 21, 1994, in Pablo, Arlee, Frenchtown, St. Ignacious, Missoula and Hot Springs, Montana, and Spokane, Washington.

While the Draft EIS was being prepared, four open houses and four workshops were held during the week of February 20, 1995. These focused on the alternative-route-screening analysis and the work plans for the EIS studies. Information on these topics was also mailed to interested individuals via newsletter, and distributed to information centers in the vicinity of the study area. In addition, the EIS study team made presentations to both the CSKT Tribal Council and Cultural Committees.

The Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register on April 26, 1995, with a 60 day public comment period ending on June 24, 1995. During this period, five open house meetings were held to inform the public about the Draft EIS alternatives, study methods and results and to provide additional opportunity for public comment.

Dated: November 7, 1995.

Ada E. Deer,

*Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-02-P**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[CO-050-1220-00]

**Emergency Closure of Public Lands; Colorado**

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

**ACTION:** Closure order.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that effective November 20, 1995 certain public lands along Fremont County Road 3 (Temple Canyon Road), Fremont County, Colorado, are closed to all vehicle access and travel. Authority for this action is found in 43 CFR 8341.2 and 43 CFR 8364.1 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. This closure affects about 15 acres of public land located 3 miles southwest of Canon City, Colorado. The closure is in response to concerns of public health and safety on public land and adjacent private land, illegal dumping, and resource degradation.

**DATES:** This closure is effective November 20, 1995 and shall remain in effect unless revised, revoked or amended.

**ADDRESSES:** Details of the closure and a map of the affected area can be obtained from the Area Manager, Royal Gorge Resource Area, 3170 East Main Street, Canon City, CO 81212.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Area Manager at the above address, or call (719) 275-0631.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The public lands affected by this closure are located at:

6th Principal Meridian

T. 19 S., R. 70 W., Section 7: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , that portion lying west of Fremont County Road 3 (Temple Canyon Road).

This closure does not apply to emergency, law enforcement, and federal or other government vehicles while being used for official or emergency purposes, or to any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized or otherwise officially approved by BLM. A copy of this Federal Register notice and a map showing the closed area is posted in the Canon City District Office. Violation of this order is punishable by fine and/or imprisonment as defined in 18 USC 3571.

Donnie R. Sparks,

*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 95-28668 Filed 11-22-95; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JB-M**

[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]

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[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.