

Rental and Royalty: The lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3.00 per acre or fraction thereof and a royalty payable to the United States of 8 percent of the value of coal mined by underground methods. The value of the coal will be determined in accordance with 30 CFR 206.

Notice of Availability: Bidding instructions for the offered tract are included in the Detailed Statement of Coal Lease Sale. Copies of the statement and the proposed coal lease are available upon request in person or by mail from the Colorado State Office at the address given above. The case file is available for inspection in the Public Room, Colorado State Office, during normal business hours at the address given above.

Dated: April 12, 2000.

Matthew R. McColm,

Mining Engineer, Branch of Solid Minerals Resource Services.

[FR Doc. 00-9616 Filed 4-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-933-99-1320-EL; COC 61357]

Notice of Coal Lease Offering By Sealed Bid

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of competitive coal lease sale.

SUMMARY: Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, Lakewood, Colorado, hereby gives notice that certain coal resources in the lands hereinafter described in Delta and Gunnison Counties, Colorado, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

DATES: The lease sale will be held at 1 p.m., Tuesday, May 23, 2000. Sealed bids must be submitted no later than 12 noon, Tuesday, May 23, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The lease sale will be held in the Conference Room, Fourth Floor, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Cashier, First Floor, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Purvis at (303) 239-3795.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder

submitting the highest offer, provided that the high bid meets the fair market value determination of the coal resource. The minimum bid for this tract is \$100 per acre or fraction thereof. No bid less than \$100 per acre or fraction thereof will be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value.

Sealed bids received after the time specified above will not be considered.

In the event identical high sealed bids are received, the tying high bidders will be requested to submit follow-up bids until a high bid is received. All tie-breaking sealed bids must be submitted within 15 minutes following the Sale Official's announcement at the sale that identical high bids have been received.

Fair market value will be determined by the authorized officer after the sale.

Coal Offered: The coal resource to be offered is limited to coal recoverable by underground mining methods in the D seam on the Elk Creek Tract in the following lands:

T. 12 S., R. 90 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 31, all;

Sec. 32, lots 3 to 6 inclusive, lots 11 to 14, inclusive, and NW¹/₄.

T. 12 S., R. 91 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 35, all;

Sec. 36, all.

T. 13 S., R. 90 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 5, lots 7 to 10, inclusive, lots 14 to 15, inclusive, and lots 17 to 18, inclusive;

Sec. 6, lots 8 to 17, inclusive.

T. 13 S., R. 91 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 1, lots 1 to 4 inclusive, S¹/₂NW¹/₄, and SW¹/₄;

Sec. 2, lot 1 and S¹/₂NE¹/₄;

Sec. 12, S¹/₂NE¹/₄ and NW¹/₄.

Containing 4,443.57 acres.

Total recoverable reserves are estimated to be 20.92 million tons. The underground minable coal is ranked as high volatile C bituminous coal. The estimated coal quality for the D seam on an as-received basis is as follows:

Btu—11,890 Btu/lb.

Moisture—8.67%

Sulfur Content—0.43%

Ash Content—8.17%

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Dated: April 12, 2000.

Matthew R. McColm,

Mining Engineer, Branch of Solid Minerals Resource Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-020-00-5101-ER-A172; AZA-31094]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on 500kv Line in Maricopa County, Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an EIS on a 500kv line and notice of scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to prepare an EIS for Arizona Public Service Company's (APS) Southwest Valley 500kv Transmission Line Project in the southwest metropolitan area of Phoenix, Arizona.

DATES: The public, state, and local governments, and other federal agencies are asked to participate in the EIS process. Written comments on the initial scoping process will be accepted until May 19, 2000. Public scoping meetings will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on May 2, 2000, at the Millennium High School, 14802 W. Wigwam Boulevard, Goodyear, Arizona, and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on May 4, 2000, at the Buckeye Union High School Gym, 902 E. Eason Avenue, Buckeye, Arizona. Additional meetings will be considered as appropriate.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: APS plans to construct and operate a 500kv transmission line from the existing Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (approximately 45 miles west of Phoenix, Arizona) to a proposed 500/230kv substation located 30 to 50 miles to the east. The project would provide needed energy to the Phoenix metropolitan area and the southwest valley. The proposed project will take approximately one year to construct, with an in-service date of January 2003. The BLM's scoping process for the EIS will include: (1) Identification of significant issues; (2) identification of