

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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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. 00-9617 Filed 4-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

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

sensitive or critical environmental impacts; (3) identification of reasonable alternative transmission line routes and substation sites; and (4) notifying interested groups, individuals, and agencies so that additional information concerning these issues and concerns can be obtained.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Michael A. Taylor, Phoenix Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office, 2015 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Pedrick, Project Manager, Phoenix Field Office, 2015 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027, (623) 580-5500.

Dated: April 5, 2000.

Margo E. Fitts,

Assistant Field Manager, Support Services.

[FR Doc. 00-9671 Filed 4-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-32-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), we are notifying you that we have submitted an information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. We are also soliciting your comments on this ICR, which describes the information collection, its expected costs and burden, and how the data will be collected.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before May 18, 2000.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (OMB Control Number 1010-0129), 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503. Copies of these comments should also be sent to us. The U.S. Postal Service address is Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Publications Staff, PO Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; the courier address is Building 85, Room A-613, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; and the email address

is RMP.comments@mms.gov. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by the law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions concerning this collection of information, please contact Anne Ewell, RIK Study Team, telephone (703) 787-1584. You may also obtain copies of this collection of information at no cost by contacting Jo Ann Lauterbach, MMS's Information Collection Clearance Officer, at (202) 208-7744.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Bids and Financial Statements for Sale of Royalty Oil and Gas (RIK Pilots).

OMB Control Number: 1010-0129.

Bureau Form Number: Form MMS-4440, Summary of Receipt and Delivery Volumes.

Abstract: The Secretary of the Interior, under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 192) and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1353), is responsible for the management of royalties on minerals produced from leased Federal lands. MMS carries out these responsibilities for the Secretary. Most royalties are now paid in value—when a company or individual enters into a contract to develop, produce, and dispose of minerals from Federal lands, that company or individual agrees to pay the United States a share (royalty) of the full value received for the minerals taken from leased lands. MMS has undertaken several pilot programs to study the feasibility of taking the Government's royalty in the form of production, that is, as RIK. The collections of information addressed in this information collection request (ICR) are necessary because the Secretary of the Interior must hold competition when selling to the public; protect actual RIK production before, during, and after any sale; and obtain a fair return on royalty production sold. MMS

must fulfill those obligations for the Secretary. The reporting requirements are as follows:

- a. The actual bids potential purchasers will submit when MMS offers production for competitive sale;
- b. Bidders' statements of financial qualification;
- c. Form MMS-4440, Summary of Receipt and Delivery Volumes;
- d. Report of Gas Analysis (RGA); and
- e. Letters of Credit (LOC).

On May 24, 1999, OMB granted emergency approval for MMS to collect, from potential purchasers, their financial statements and their bids on Federal RIK oil or gas offered for sale by MMS. On August 4, 1999, MMS published a 60-day **Federal Register** Notice (64 FR 42410) soliciting public comments on MMS's request to renew OMB's approval to collect those two items of information. No comments were received.

As the pilots progressed, MMS recognized the need to collect three additional items—Form MMS-4440, RGA, and LOCs.

MMS will evaluate the bids to determine which competitive offer to purchase RIK is most advantageous to the Government. The financial statements will be used to evaluate the risk of a bidder not following through on all aspects of its offer, including timely taking of RIK and payment for it. At the request of some small businesses, MMS will accept LOCs to help offset that risk. A small number of purchasers will pay for RIK production by delivering like quality and quantities to a location designated by MMS. They will report monthly to MMS on Form MMS-4440, for each pipeline, the specific daily volumes and qualities (usually expressed as MMBtu's) of MMS's RIK natural gas volumes that the respondent has been nominated to receive/actually has received and similar information on volumes the respondent has been nominated to deliver and actually has delivered to MMS or its agent. MMS may occasionally ask for an RGA to verify the reported quality of such production at the delivery point.

If a company does not submit a timely competitive bid, MMS may not sell Federal RIK to them. Failure of MMS to evaluate a bidder's financial qualifications would increase the risk that a purchaser might fail to take the production, fail to reserve pipeline transportation to move it, fail to pay for it, or fail to deliver it to a delivery point designated by MMS. Such failures would likely incur storage costs, monetary penalties for failure to meet delivery due dates, or loss of the