

other resources, and permit the Federal agencies to administer and evaluate contract programs. Tribal governments or tribal organizations provide the information by submitting Public Law 93-638 contract or grant proposals to the appropriate Federal agency. No third-party notification or public disclosure burden is associated with this collection.

Request for Comments

The Department of the Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services request comments on this information collection particularly concerning:

- (1) The necessity of the information collection for the proper performance of the agencies functions;
- (2) Whether this information collection duplicates a collection elsewhere by the federal government;
- (3) Whether the burden estimate is accurate or could be reduced using technology available to all respondents;
- (4) If the quality of the information requested ensures its usefulness to the agencies;
- (5) If the instructions are clear and easily understood, leading to the least burden on the respondents.

Burden Statement

Each respondent is required to respond from 1 to 12 times per year, depending upon the number of programs it contracts from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service. In addition, each subpart concerns information collection for different parts of the contracting process. For example, subpart C relates to initial contract proposal contents. Information collection for subpart C would be unnecessary when contracts are renewed. Subpart F describes minimum standards for the management systems used by Indian tribes or tribal organizations under these contracts. Subpart G addresses the negotiability of all reporting and data requirements in the contract.

Total annual burden: 191,174 hours.

Total number of respondents: 550.

Total number of responses: 5,507.

Dated: June 13, 2003.

Aurene M. Martin,

*Acting Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior.*

Dated: April 30, 2003.

Duane Jeanotte,

*Acting Director of Headquarters Operations,
Department of Health and Human Services.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-020-03-1320-EL]

Intent To Prepare a Land Use Analysis/ Environmental Assessment; Alabama

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a land use analysis/environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management's Eastern States, Jackson Field Office, is preparing a Land Use Analysis/Environmental Assessment (LUA/EA) to consider leasing Federal coal in response to lease application ALES-51589. This notice is issued pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2(c) and 43 CFR part 3420. The planning effort will follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR part 1610. As provided at 43 CFR part 3420, information and data pertaining to the coal deposits or other resources, which potentially may be affected by development of the coal, are requested. The public is invited to participate in this planning process, beginning with the identification of planning issues and criteria.

Coal companies, state and local governments and the general public are encouraged to submit information to assist in determining (1) coal development potential, and (2) development conflicts with other resources.

DATES: Comments will be accepted on or before July 21, 2003.

Public Participation: This notice initiates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public scoping process. The agencies will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to national, regional and local needs and concerns. The public is invited to participate in this planning process, beginning with the identification of issues and planning criteria along with submittal of coal or other resource or land use information.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Sid Vogelpohl, Bureau of Land Management, 411 Briarwood, Suite 404; Jackson, MS 39206.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sid Vogelpohl, Bureau of Land Management, (601) 977-5402.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The coal lease application, filed by Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Company, is located in Fayette County, Alabama. The lease application area is

approximately 1.5 miles southeast of Berry, Alabama. The lease application area, totaling 2,887.2 acres, is described as follows:

Township 16 South, Range 10 West,
Huntsville Meridian

Section 14: SW¹/₄SW¹/₄,

Section 15: SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, S¹/₂SE¹/₄,
NE¹/₄SE¹/₄,

Section 21: N¹/₂SW¹/₄, SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, E¹/₂,

Section 22: All,

Section 23: NW¹/₄, W¹/₂SW¹/₄, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄,

Section 26: NW¹/₄NW¹/₄,

Section 27: N¹/₂, SE¹/₄,

Section 28: E¹/₂NE¹/₄, N¹/₂SW¹/₄,

SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, SE¹/₄,

Section 31: NE¹/₄SE¹/₄,

Section 33: NE¹/₄, E¹/₂NW¹/₄,

Section 34: NW¹/₄.

The applicant proposes to mine the Federal coal in the lease application area by underground methods extending from the existing North River Mine. The surface estate overlying the lease application area is privately owned.

The BLM has the responsibility to address coal lease applications on Federal mineral estate under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended. The Office of Surface Mining, in coordination with the State of Alabama, has responsibility to issue Mine Permits under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

Current mining at the North River Mine (Mine Permit P-3222) does not include Federal coal. The coal lease applicant has filed for an amendment to the existing Permit to extend the Mine into Federal coal in the lease application area and associated private coal.

An interdisciplinary team will prepare the LUA/EA. Preliminary issues, subject to change as a result of public input, are (1) potential impacts of coal exploration and development on the surface and subsurface resources and (2) consideration of restrictions on lease rights to protect surface resources.

Preliminary planning criteria developed to guide the preparation of the PA, subject to change as a result of public input, are as follows:

1. Land use planning and environmental analysis will be conducted in accordance with laws, regulations, executive orders and manuals. Planning will be conducted for the federal coal mineral estate (leaseable mineral estates, such as, coal; are under the administration of the BLM).

2. A mine plan scenario will be prepared for the Federal coal resource. The surface estate is privately owned.

3. Resource data needed to evaluate the impacts of coal exploration and mining will be collected.

4. The planning team will work cooperatively with (a) federal, state,