



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLM seeks public comment on coal lease EA

MILES CITY, Mont. --- The Bureau of Land Management is inviting public comment on an environmental assessment prepared for a lease application submitted by Spring Creek Coal Company for a tract of federal coal in Big Horn County.

The deadline for public input is Jan. 2, 2007.

The application is for a maintenance tract of federal coal consisting of approximately 1,207 acres with an estimated 151 million tons of in-place coal reserves. About 80 acres are public surface and the remainder is split estate where the surface is owned or controlled by the Spring Creek Coal Company and the coal is federally owned.

A maintenance tract is a parcel of land within the permit boundary of an existing mine that contains coal reserves nominated for leasing that may be used to extend the production life of an existing mine. The BLM must prepare an environmental analysis prior to holding a competitive federal coal lease sale. The Montana DEQ and the federal Office of Surface Mining are cooperating agencies on this environmental assessment.

Spring Creek Coal Company proposes to mine the tract as a part of the Spring Creek Mine.

The BLM will hold a public hearing on both the environmental assessment and the fair-market value determination of the coal lease at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 14, at the BLM Montana State Office conference room 920, located at 5001 Southgate Drive in Billings.

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Public comments may be hand-delivered or mailed to the BLM Miles City Field Office, Attn: Dan Benoit, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT 59301.

Comments or questions can also be faxed to Benoit at (406)232-7004 or sent by email to: MT_Miles_City_FO@BLM.gov. Emailed comments must have “Spring Creek LBA Tract/Dan Benoit” in the subject line.

The public is welcome to visit the BLM Miles City Field Office and examine documents pertinent to this proposal. Business hours are 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

For additional information, contact Dan Benoit or David Breisch at (406)233-2800.

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