

FEDERAL REGISTER: 44 FR 4761 (January 23, 1979)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AGENCIES: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM); Geological Survey [Int FES 79-1]

ACTION: Environmental Impact Statement - Availability of Final Statement Coal Creek Mine, Campbell County, Wyo.

Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Department of the Interior has prepared a final environmental impact statement on the proposed Coal Creek surface coal mining operation by the Atlantic Richfield Company in Campbell County, Wyoming. The final statement assesses the environmental impacts of the lessee's plan for the surface mining of federally owned coal and the concurrent reclamation and revegetation of surface lands. The proposed action is on Federal coal lease W-3446, located 25 miles (40km) southeast of Gillette, Wyoming, in Campbell County.

The mine plan contained in this final environmental impact statement was submitted prior to the promulgation of interim regulations by the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, pursuant to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. It has not been reviewed for compliance with those requirements. Prior to making any decision on approval of the mining and reclamation plan, the Department will perform a technical review for compliance with the Surface Mining Regulations. Once the mine plan is conformed to meet those regulations, the Department will evaluate whether this final environmental impact statement is adequate for the mine plan approval action or whether a supplemental to this impact statement needs to be prepared and distributed.

Comments received on the draft environmental statement during the comment period were considered in the preparation of the final environmental statement and are reproduced in the appendix.

The proposed mining and reclamation plan assessed in this statement was one of the mining proposals identified in the preparation of the regional analysis (Part I) of the Department's final environmental statement, FES 74-55, entitled "Proposed Development of Coal Resources in the Eastern Powder River Coal Basin Wyoming," which was filed with the Council on Environmental Quality on October 18, 1974. Public hearings on the draft of the FES 74-55 statement were held as follows: June 24-25, 1974, at Cheyenne, Wyo.; June 26, 1974, at Casper, Wyo.; and June 27-28, 1974, at Gillette, Wyo.

The final environmental impact statement is available for public review in the U.S. Geological Survey Library, 1526 Cole Blvd., Golden, Colo., the U.S. Geological Survey Library, Room 4A100, National Center, Reston, Va.; the Converse County Library, 300 Walnut St., Douglas, Wyo.; the George Amos Memorial Library, 412 South Gillette Ave., Gillette, Wyo.; the Library of Natrona County, 307 East Second, Casper, Wyo.; and the State Library, State of Wyoming, Supreme Court Bldg., Cheyenne, Wyo. A limited number of copies are available on request from the U.S. Geological Survey, Land Information and Analysis Office, Federal Center, Stop 701, Denver, CO 80225.

Dated: January 18, 1979.

LARRY E. MEIEROTTO, *Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

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