

FEDERAL REGISTER: 44 FR 17599 (March 22, 1979)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM)

Northern Energy Resources Co. -- Spring Creek Mine Availability of Proposed Decision To Approve, With Stipulations, Coal Mining and Reclamation Plan [Federal Coal Lease No. M-069782]

ACTION: Availability of Proposed Decision to Approve, with Stipulations, a Coal Mining and Reclamation Plan.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 211.5 of Title 30, Code of Federal Regulations, notice is hereby given that the Office of Surface Mining has performed a technical review of a mining and reclamation plan and has recommended approval of the proposed plan contingent upon the appellant's acceptance of certain stipulations. The plan is described below.

Applicant

Mine Name

Location of Lands to be Affected by Planned Operations

County

Township, Range, Sections

Northern Energy Resources Co Spring Creek.

Montana Big Horn T8S, R39E: 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27

(Spring Creek Mining Co.) T8S, R40E: 30, 31

Office of Surface Mining Reference No.: MT-0012

The mine is located approximately 26 miles northwest of Sheridan, Wyoming. The permit area covers 3,074 acres; of which approximately 2,347 acres are proposed to be disturbed. The plan proposes an annual production rate of 7 million tons per year over a 25-year period. Mining will be by both dragline and truck-shovel operations. Coal will be shipped by rail. Two other coal mines in the immediate vicinity are the East and West Decker Mines.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the Regional Director, Region V, Office of Surface Mining, has recommended, based on staff reviews and the reviews of the Montana Department of State Lands, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Geological Survey, approval of the coal mining and reclamation plan, subject to stipulations which must be accepted by the applicant in order for the approval to take effect. Any persons having an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the recommended approval may, in writing, request a public meeting to discuss their views regarding the plan.

The Spring Creek Mine was the subject of a site-specific analysis of impacts, mitigating measures, and alternatives in an environmental impact statement, titled, "Proposed Mining and Reclamation Plan, Spring Creek Mine, Big Horn County, Montana". The Final Environmental Statement was filed with the EPA on February 28, 1979 (FES-79). The availability of the mining and reclamation plan for Spring Creek was announced in the FEDERAL REGISTER on February 1, 1979.

DATES: All requests for a public meeting must be made on or before April 11, 1979. No decision on the plan will be made by the Assistant Secretary, Energy & Minerals, prior to the expiration of the 20-day period.

ADDRESSES: The mining and reclamation plan, the OSM staff analysis, and proposed stipulations are available for review in the Region V Office of Surface Mining.

Requests for a public meeting must be submitted in writing to the Regional Director, Region V, Office of Surface Mining, Room 219, 1823 Stout Street, Denver, Colorado 80202. Requests must include the name and address of the requestor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maggie Koperski of John Hardaway, Office of Surface Mining, Region V, Room 207, 1823 Stout Street, Denver, Colorado 80202.

PAUL L. REEVES,
Deputy Director.

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