



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Solicits Public Comment on Environmental Assessment for Mining Plan Modification at Cordero Rojo Mine**

Washington, DC – The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](http://www.osmre.gov) (OSMRE) is asking the public to comment on the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) on a proposed change in the mining plan for the Cordero Rojo mine near Gillette, Wyoming.

The mine operator, Cloud Peak Energy, has requested a modification of the mining plan that allows the removal of approximately 56 million tons of coal from approximately 569 acres of Federal lands. Under the current mining plan the company will produce coal through 2027, an average of about 20 million tons of coal per year, with a maximum permitted production rate of 65 million tons per year. Operating at the average production rate, the mining plan modification would extend the life of the mine through 2030.

OSMRE is asking the public to comment on what should be included in the EA, which will update, clarify, and provide new and additional environmental information that will be considered in the review of the mining plan modification.

If the EA identifies significant impacts on the environment, OSMRE may prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. If OSMRE issues a Finding of No Significant Impact as a result of the EA, it will submit a mining plan decision document recommending approval, disapproval, or conditional approval of the mining plan modification to the Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management who will render the final decision.

The proposed expansion is not affected by the Interior Department's pause on federal coal leasing announced in January because regulatory actions under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act are not subject to the pause.

The public comment period on the production of the EA begins today and runs until September 5, 2016. Written comments must be submitted via e-mail to [osm-nepa-wy@osmre.gov](mailto:osm-nepa-wy@osmre.gov) or by mail: ATTN: Cordero Rojo Mine Amendment EA, C/O: Logan Sholar, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, CO 80202.

To learn more about the EA, mining plan modification, and the history of the project, please visit: <http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/CorderoRojoMineAmendment.shtm>.

*The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSMRE's objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines. For instant updates on OSMRE, follow the bureau's Twitter feed [@OSMRE](https://twitter.com/OSMRE).*

