

News Release



Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement
A Bureau of the U. S. Department of the Interior

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mining Plan Modification Approved Following Environmental Assessment of Wyoming's Jim Bridger Mine

Washington, DC – The Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, has issued a mining plan approval to allow continued development of Federal coal at the Jim Bridger Coal Mine, located approximately 28 miles northeast of Rock Springs, Wyoming. OSMRE conducted an environmental assessment (EA) of the project and found no significant impacts associated with the proposed mining plan modification.

The [modification to the mining plan](#) will add approximately 560 acres to the approved mining plan, and will allow mining of approximately 4.5 million additional tons of Federal coal. The Secretarial authorization extends the life-of-mine to approximately 2037.

The mine is projected to produce, on average, 3.7 to 6.5 million tons per year, with a maximum production rate of 9 million tons per year. The mine currently employs 466 people.

The Bridger mine permit provides for a post-mine land use of grazing land and wildlife habitat which will continue with this modification.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WYDEQ) holds a reclamation performance bond in the amount of \$170,083,000 on the site. Reclamation performance bonds are held to ensure that post-mining reclamation of the site is carried out if a company cannot carry out its legally required reclamation obligations.

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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.

