

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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OSMRE Announces Proposed Addition of Approximately 4,500 Acres to New Mexico's San Juan Mine Mining Plan Area

Proposed action would authorize the mining of approximately 53 million tons and add 10-15 years to the life of the mine.

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior's [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement \(OSMRE\)](#) is considering a plan to add approximately 4,465 acres to the approved mining plan area of the San Juan Mine in New Mexico. The proposed action would add approximately 10 to 15 years to the life of the underground mine, authorizing the mining of approximately 53 million tons of Federal coal. The underground facility is located about 16 miles west of the city of Farmington in San Juan County and currently employs 282 people. The mine is projected to produce an average of 3 million tons per year.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), OSMRE will publish a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the San Juan Mine Deep Lease Extension mine plan modification. The DEIS analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed underground mining operations, alternatives, and the potential coal combustion related impacts at the San Juan Generating Station. The DEIS will be available for download at: <https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/sanJuanMine.shtm>.

The Notice of Availability for the DEIS will be published in the *Federal Register* on Friday, May 25, 2018. The publication opens a 45-day comment period, closing on July 9, 2018.

OSMRE will also hold five public meetings on the DEIS between June 25 and June 29, 2018. The Bureau will also announce the times and locations of the public meetings in the *Federal Register* on Friday, May 25, 2018.

Following the close of the public comment period, OSMRE will review all comments received, develop responses, and revise the EIS as necessary. The final EIS is scheduled for release in February 2019. OSMRE expects to issue a Record of Decision in March 2019.

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.

