

# News Release



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

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## **OSMRE Announces Record of Decision for Alton Coal Lease by Application at Utah's Coal Hollow Mine**

*Decision will add approximately 30.8 million tons of recoverable coal and 16 years to the life of the mine, extending jobs for more than 160 people.*

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Department of the Interior’s [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement \(OSMRE\)](#) announced it is releasing a Record of Decision (ROD) adopting the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Alton Coal Lease by Application (LBA) at the Coal Hollow Mine, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

OSMRE’s preferred alternative would add approximately 2,114 permit acres for surface and underground mining activities and approximately 30.8 million tons of recoverable federal and private coal to the mining area of Coal Hollow Mine in Kane County, Utah. The preferred alternative would add approximately 16 years to the life of the mine, through the year 2036. The permit area currently employs 160 people. The mine is projected to produce 2 million tons per year.

The Coal Hollow Mine permit provides for a post-mine land use of domestic grazing with limited wildlife which will continue with this mining plan. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining holds a reclamation performance bond in the amount of \$13,000,000 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.

The ROD adopting BLM’s final EIS for the Alton Coal LBA at the Coal Hollow Mine will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 5, 2019. Details about the project are available at: <https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/coalHollowMine.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.

