



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Opens Public Comment Period on Environmental Assessment of Proposed Mining Plan Modification for ColoWyo Coal Mine

Washington, DC – [The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](http://www.osmre.gov) (OSMRE) has released an Environmental Assessment (EA) of a proposed expansion of the ColoWyo Coal Mine federal lease permit area near Craig, Colorado. The proposed mining plan modification, if approved, would authorize ColoWyo Coal Company, LP to conduct mining operations and activities that could produce up to 5.1 million tons of coal per year for up to 15 years and affect up to a maximum of 2,636 acres of private, state and federal lands.

OSMRE, working in cooperation with the [Bureau of Land Management](http://www.blm.gov) (BLM), has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the project. The EA and FONSI are available for examination now, and the bureau is soliciting comments from interested parties through February 18, 2016.

Once the comment period closes, OSMRE will review the comments and determine if any changes to the EA are required. If appropriate, OSMRE will sign the FONSI and make a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management to approve, disapprove or approve, with conditions, the mining plan modification.

The proposed expansion is not affected by the Interior Department's pause on federal coal leasing announced last Friday because the coal in the expansion area was leased to Tri-State in 1982 and 2007. To learn more about OSMRE's EA and unsigned FONSI, please visit <http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/colowyo.shtm>.

Printed versions of the EA and unsigned FONSI are available at the following locations:

- OSMRE, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, CO 80202-3050
- Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
- Moffat County Building, 221 W. Victory Way, Suite 130, Craig, CO 81625
- Moffat County Library, 570 Green St., Craig, CO 81625
- Rio Blanco County Courthouse, 555 Main St., Meeker, CO 81641
- Meeker Public Library, 490 Main St., Meeker, CO 81641
- BLM, White River Field Office, 220 East Market St., Meeker, CO 81641
- BLM, Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson St., Craig, CO 81625
- Rangely Regional Library, 109 E. Main St., Rangely, CO 81648

Written comments must be submitted no later than February 18, 2016, and are accepted via



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e-mail to OSM-Colowyo-Mine-EA@OSMRE.gov or by mail: ATTN: Collom Permit Expansion MPDD EA, C/O: Nicole Caveny, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, CO 80202.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement 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 at www.twitter.com/OSMRE.

