

available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 20 days of the date of publication of this notice to the address above; telephone: 503-231-2063. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents.

Dated: May 20, 1997.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Regional Director, Region 1 Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 97-13745 Filed 5-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-921-07-1320-01; MTM 80697]

Coal Lease Offering

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of coal lease offering by sealed bid MTM 80697—Western Energy Company.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the coal resources in the lands described below in Rosebud County, Montana, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid. This offering is being made as a result of an application filed by Western Energy Company, in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 437; 30 U.S.C. 181-287), as amended.

An Environmental Assessment of the proposed coal development and related requirements for consultation, public involvement, and hearing have been completed in accordance with 43 CFR part 3425. Concerns and issues expressed by the public during the public scoping process centered on social, economic, and cultural impacts to the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Tribes, hydrologic impacts to the area, and the need to do an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as the appropriate level of environmental documentation for the development of the coal resources. Three alternatives (Preferred, No Action, and Cultural Resource Avoidance) were developed to analyze impacts and to address issues relating to the proposed action. The Preferred Alternative, including special stipulations and mitigation measures, was chosen because it will maximize the beneficial use of the subject coal resource and will mitigate impacts to one historic site and two sites which have high values as traditional cultural properties.

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount, provided that the high bid meets the fair market value of the coal resource. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value will be determined by the authorized officer after the sale.

COAL OFFERED: The coal resource to be offered consists of all recoverable reserves in the following-described lands located approximately 10 miles west of the town of Colstrip, Montana:

T. 1 N., R. 39 E., P.M.M.
Sec. 2: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 1 N., R. 40 E., P.M.M.
Sec. 6: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$
Sec. 8: E $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 14: S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 2 N., R. 40 E., P.M.M.
Sec. 32: All.
Containing 2,061 acres.
Rosebud County, Montana.

The Rosebud seam, averaging 22.3 feet in thickness, is the only economically minable coal seam within the tract. The tract contains an estimated 35.6 million tons of recoverable reserves. Coal quality, as received, averages 8,360 BTU/lb., 25.52 percent moisture, 10.03 percent ash, and 0.97 percent sulfur. This coal bed is being mined in adjoining tracts by Western Energy Company.

RENTAL AND ROYALTY: A lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3 per acre, or fraction thereof, and a royalty payable to the United States of 12.5 percent of the value of coal mined by surface methods and 8.0 percent of the value of coal mined by underground methods. The value of the coal shall be determined in accordance with 43 CFR 3485.2.

DATES: Lease Sale—The lease sale will be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 2, 1997, in the Conference Room on the Sixth Floor of the Granite Tower Building, Bureau of Land Management, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana 59107.

Bids—Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 9 a.m., Wednesday, July 2, 1997, to the cashier, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Second Floor, Granite Tower Building, 222 North 32nd Street, Post Office Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800. The bids should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or be hand-delivered. The cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid.

Bids received after that time will not be considered.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Bidding instructions for the offered tract are included in the Detailed Statement of Lease Sale. Copies of the statement and the proposed coal lease are available at the Montana State Office. Casefile documents are also available for public inspection at the Montana State Office.

Dated: May 16, 1997.

Francis R. Cherry, Jr.,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 97-13698 Filed 5-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-020-1410-00-P; FF091732]

Environmental Impact Statement: Fairbanks, Alaska

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the Northern Intertie Project.

SUMMARY: The BLM is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed 230kV power transmission line between Healy and Fairbanks, Alaska, in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), as amended; and the regulations at 43 CFR Part 2800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Golden Valley Electric Association has applied for a right-of-way to construct, operate, and maintain a 230kV power transmission line between Healy and Fairbanks, Alaska. The powerline is approximately 90 miles long and approximately 150 feet wide. An environmental analysis was prepared for the project which analyzed eight different route proposals. A Finding of No Significant Impact was not issued due to a high level of public controversy which resulted from the selection of the preferred alternative. The decision was then made to prepare an EIS.

Additional scoping meetings for this project will be held to identify issues which were not addressed during the original scoping meetings and public meetings. These scoping meetings will be held according to the tentative schedule described below:

Fairbanks, Alaska—June 23, 1997—
BLM, Northern District, Office Bldg.,
1150, University Ave.
Healy, Alaska—June 24, 1997—Tri
Valley School, Lunchroom
Anderson, Alaska—June 25, 1997—
Council Chambers, Anderson City
Hall, 260, W. First St.
Nenana, Alaska—June 26, 1997—
Nenana Public School, 2nd and C St.

The meetings will be held in an open-house format from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and a public workshop format will be conducted from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Any changes to the above meeting times or locations will be posted in the local newspaper and in local public buildings. Public scoping for this EIS will end on July 11, 1997. All written comments must be postmarked on or before July 11, 1997.

Information, comments, and nominations on specific issues to be addressed in the EIS are sought from all interested parties.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Foreman, (907) 474-2339 or g1forema@ak.blm.gov., or by mail at 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709.

Dated: May 19, 1997.

Dee Ritchie,

Northern District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-13743 Filed 5-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4130-84-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Establishment of the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

SUMMARY: Notice to announce the formal establishment of the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, effective June 14, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Scotts Bluff National Monument, P.O. Box 27, Gering, Nebraska 69341-0027; or telephone 308-436-4340.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public Law 89-33 (79 Stat. 123.) approved June 5, 1965, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument in the State of Nebraska as a unit of the National Park System. The park was authorized to preserve for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the outstanding paleontological sites known as the Agate Springs Fossil Quarries, and nearby related geological phenomena, to provide a center for

continuing paleontological research and for the display and interpretation of the scientific specimens uncovered at such sites, and to facilitate the protection and exhibition of a valuable collection of Native American artifacts and relics that are representative of an important phase of Native American history.

Public Law 89-33 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by donation, or by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or otherwise, title or a lesser interest in not more than three thousand one hundred and fifty acres of land in Township 28 North, Range 55 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, Sioux County, Nebraska, for inclusion in the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument in accordance with the boundary designation made pursuant to Section 2 thereof, which boundary may include such right-of-way as is needed for a road between the Stenomylus Quarry site and the monument lands lying in Section 3 or 10 of the said Township and Range.

Further, upon completion of land acquisition, the Secretary of the Interior may establish the park area by publishing a notice in the **Federal Register**, and any subsequent adjustment of its boundaries shall be effectuated in the same manner.

The National Park Service has prepared a map identified as Boundary Map of Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, Drawing Number 165/80,023, dated May 1997, which depicts the boundaries established by this notice. A copy of the map is available at the following locations: The Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Land Resources Division, 1849 "C" Street, NW, Room 2444, Washington, D.C. 20240; the National Park Service, Midwest Field Area, 1709 Jackson Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102; and Scotts Bluff National Monument or Agate Fossil Beds National Monument at the address listed above.

Dated: May 13, 1997.

William W. Schenk,

Field Director, Midwest Field Area.

[FR Doc. 97-13768 Filed 5-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Designation of Potential Wilderness as Wilderness, Joshua Tree National Park

Public Law (Pub. L.) 94-567, approved October 20, 1976, designated 429,690 acres as wilderness in Joshua Tree National Monument and further

identified 37,550 acres as potential wilderness additions. The National Park Service (NPS) depicted the wilderness and potential wilderness additions in maps entitled "Joshua Tree Wilderness," numbered 156-20,003D and dated February 1977. In May 1978, the NPS published the legal description of the wilderness and potential wilderness additions. The maps and legal description are on file at the headquarters of Joshua Tree National Park, 74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, California 92277, and at the NPS Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center at 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado.

The maps and legal description of 1977 and 1978 respectively show 422,320 acres of wilderness and 30,740 acres of potential wilderness additions, a lesser amount than cited in Public Law 94-567. However, under section 2 of Public Law 94-567 the maps and legal description " * * * have the same force and effect as if included in this Act."

Public Law 94-567 provided that " * * * corrections of clerical and typographical errors in such maps and descriptions may be made." The NPS, after careful review of the maps and legal description of 1977 and 1978 respectively, detected two typographical errors. On January 15, 1997, the NPS corrected the errors which resulted in a recalculation of wilderness established by the Public Law 94-567 maps and legal description as 422,520 acres. This is an increase of 200 acres. The potential wilderness additions remain at 30,740 acres.

Section 3 of Public Law 94-567 provided a process whereby potential wilderness additions within the former Joshua Tree National Monument would become wilderness upon publication in the **Federal Register** of a notice by the Secretary of the Interior that all uses on the land, prohibited by the Wilderness Act (Pub. L. 88-577) have ceased.

The NPS has determined that all the Wilderness Act prohibited activities of the following described designated potential wilderness additions have ceased. Such lands are entirely in Federal ownership. Because such lands fully comply with Congressional directions in section 3 of Public Law 94-567, this notice hereby changes the status of the land, totalling 3,502.20 acres, more or less, from potential wilderness additions to wilderness. This acreage will be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System and bring the total wilderness acreage of the former Joshua Tree National Monument to 426,022 acres, more or less. The