

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Pines Coal Lease Tract, UTU-76195, Manti-La Sal National Forest, Sanpete, Sevier, and Emery Counties, Utah

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare a Third-Party Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will direct preparation of a Third-Party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental and human effects of proposed actions to offer the Pines Coal Lease Tract for competitive bidding in accordance with 43 CFR part 3425. As the surface management agency, the Forest Service will be the lead agency for preparation of the EIS and the Bureau of Land Management will be a joint or cooperating agency. The Office of Surface Mining will also participate as a cooperating agency.

The coal lease tract, as delineated by the Tract Delineation Team, encompasses 7,311 acres of Federal coal lands on the Manti-La Sal National Forest as follows:

T. 20 E., R. 5 E., SLM,  
 Sec. 36: W $\frac{1}{2}$ S,  $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
 S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 T. 21 S., R. 5 E., SLM,  
 Sec. 1: lots 3-4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 2: lots 1-4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Sec. 3: lots 1-2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 10: E $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Sec. 11-14: All;  
 Sec. 15: E $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Sec. 22, E $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Sec. 23-24: All;  
 Sec. 25: N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Sec. 25: N $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
 T. 21 S., R. 6 E., SLM,  
 Sec. 19, lots 3-4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 30, lots 1-3, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
 Additions and/or deletions could be considered in alternatives to the proposed action to be developed and analyzed based on issues and management needs.

Canyon Fuel Company, LLC applied to the Bureau of Land Management for the lease to obtain additional coal reserves to increase the production life of their SUFCO Mine. The tract lies directly adjacent to the east boundary of the existing approved permit area for this underground mine. If Canyon Fuel obtains the tract, it would be mined by longwall and room-and pillar methods from underground workings in the existing permit area. The existing portal facilities in Convulsion Canyon would be used. If another company obtains the tract, it is most likely that new portal facilities would be required at the coal outcrop in Link Canyon. The underground mining methods and layout would be similar. The EIS would consider the effects of both scenarios, the No Action Alternative, and other alternatives to be developed after completion of project scoping.

**AGENCY DECISIONS:** In accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Utah State Director of the Bureau of Land Management must decide whether or not to offer the tract for competitive leasing and under what terms, conditions, and stipulations.

In accordance with the Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1975, which amended the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, the Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest, must decide whether or not to consent to leasing by the Bureau of Land Management and identify special coal lease stipulations needed to protect non-mineral resources.

**DATES:** Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis described in this Notice should be received on or before March 2, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be addressed to Carter Reed or Aaron Howe, Manti-La Sal National Forest, phone (435) 637-2817.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This EIS will tier to the Final EIS and Record of Decision for the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The Manti-La Sal Forest Plan provides the overall guidance (Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Management Area Direction) to achieve the Desired Future Condition

for the area being analyzed, and contains specific management area prescriptions for the entire Forest. The proposed lease tract is available for further consideration for coal leasing. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have determined that data is available to meet the Data Adequacy Standards for Federal Coal Leasing, Uinta-Southwestern Utah Coal Region.

Issues and alternatives to be evaluated in the analysis will be determined through public scoping. The major issues are expected to include the socioeconomic benefits of mining; the potential impacts of underground mining and mining-induced subsidence to surface and ground water, vegetation, wildlife, cultural/paleontological resources, range improvements, and other land uses; and the potential impacts of any new surface facilities to the Forest and human environments.

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies as well as individuals and organizations who may be interested in, or effected by the proposed action. The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions on the issues related to the proposal and the area being analyzed.

Information received will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS and Final EIS. For most effective use, comments would be submitted to the Forest Service within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**. Preparation of the EIS will include the following steps:

1. Define the purpose of and need for action.
2. Identify potential issues.
3. Eliminate issues of minor importance or those that have been covered by previous and relevant environmental analysis.
4. Select issues to be analyzed in depth.
5. Identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action.
6. Describe the affected environment.
7. Identify the potential environmental effects of the alternatives.

Steps 2, 3, and 4 will be completed through the scoping process.

Step 5 will consider a range of alternative developed from the key issues and management needs. At a minimum, the "No Action" and "Proposed Action" Alternatives will be

analyzed. Other alternatives could involve modified tract boundaries (additions and/or reductions) and different sets of special lease stipulations for the protection of non-mineral resources. Alternatives may also be developed to include analysis of mining in the existing adjacent lease area and a potential modification of adjacent existing leases to add up to 160 acres/lease to prevent bypassing minable reserves.

Step 6 will describe the physical attributes of the area to be affected by this proposal, with special attention to the environmental factors that could be adversely affected.

Step 7 will analyze the environmental effects of each alternative. This analysis will be consistent with management direction outlined in the Forest Plan. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of each alternative will be analyzed and documented. In addition, the site specific mitigation measures for each alternative will be identified and the effectiveness of these mitigation measures will be disclosed.

Agency representatives and other interested people are invited to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the EIS process. Two specific time periods are identified for the receipt of formal comments on the analysis. The two comment periods are, (1) During the scoping process, the next 30 days following publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, and (2) during the formal review period of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS is estimated to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in July, 1998. At this time the EPA will publish an availability notice of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**.

The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate at that time. To be the most helpful, comments on the Draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives discussed (See The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3).

In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an

agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, (9th Circuit, 1986), and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). The reason for this is to ensure that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final document.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns related to the proposed action, comments on the Draft EIS should be as specific as possible. Referring to specific pages or chapters of the Draft EIS is most helpful. Comments may also address the adequacy of the Draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement.

(Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, 40 CFR 1503.3, in addressing these points.)

The final EIS is expected to be released in October, 1998.

The Forest Supervisor for the Manti-La Sal National Forest and Utah State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, who are the responsible officials for the EIS, will then make their respective decisions regarding this proposal, after considering the comments, responses, and environmental consequences discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The rationale for the respective agency decisions will be documented in the Record(s) of Decisions.

Dated: January 20, 1998.

**Janette S. Kaiser,**

*Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 98-2241 Filed 1-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## STATUS:

### Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes of January 9, 1998 Meeting
- III. Announcements
- IV. Staff Director's Report
- V. State Advisory Committee Reports
  - "Residential Mortgage Lending Disparities in Washington, D.C." (Washington, D.C.)
  - "Civic Crisis and Civic Challenge. . . Police Community Relations in Jackson, Mississippi" (Mississippi)
- VI. Management Information System
- VII. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matter
- VIII. Future Agenda Items.

### CONTACT PERSON FOR FURTHER

**INFORMATION:** Barbara Brooks, Press and Communications (202) 376-8312.

**Stephanie Y. Moore,**

*General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 98-2295 Filed 1-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review: Comment Request

The Department of Commerce has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). This collection has been submitted under the emergency Paperwork Reduction Act procedures.

**Agency:** Bureau of Export Administration.

**Title:** Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under the National Defense Authorization Act.

**Agency Form Number:** None.

**OMB Approval Number:** 0694-.

**Title of Request:** New Collection—Emergency Review—Request approval by January 30, 1998.

**Burden:** 782 hours.

**Number of Respondents:** 2,800.

**Average time per response:** 5 to 52 minutes.

**Needs and uses:** The information required by this collection is required biannually from all exporters of certain items specified in § 743.1 of the Export Administration Regulations controlled for national security reasons on the Commerce Control List and exported under certain License Exceptions.

**Affected Public:** Individuals, businesses or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions.

**Frequency:** On occasion.

**Respondents Obligation:** Mandatory.

## CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**DATE AND TIME:** Friday, February 6, 1998, 9:30 a.m.

**PLACE:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 624 Ninth Street, N.W., Room 540, Washington, DC 20425.