

Spring Creek Mine LBA1 Tracts Draft Environmental Impact Statement



Project Overview

On September 6, 2024, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) published a notice of availability (NOA) for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Navajo Transitional Energy Company's (NTEC) Spring Creek Mine (SCM) Lease by Application (LBA) 1 Federal Mining Plan Modification for Federal Lease MTM-94378 (LBA1 tracts).

The DEIS has been prepared to address the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana ruling related to the LBA1 tracts which ruled that the 2016 LBA1 EA failed to take a hard look at the following:

- Indirect and cumulative effects of diesel emissions, noise, vibrations, and coal dust emissions from rail cars based on the final destination and routes of SCM coal shipments
- Indirect effects of non-greenhouse gas from downstream combustion emissions.
- Effects related to the social cost of greenhouse gases.

The DEIS also considers new information available in analyzing potential impacts to other resources in the environment that could result if mining of the Federal coal lease continues.

The SCM is located in Big Horn County, Montana, approximately 32 miles north of Sheridan, Wyoming. The SCM is surface coal mine operated by Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC (NTEC). As of December 31, 2023, approximately 63.3 million tons (Mt) of the 103.2 Mt of Federal coal have been recovered and 461.4 acres of the 627.9 acres have been disturbed in association with recovering the Federal coal within the LBA1 tracts. The mining plan modification would allow SCM to recover the remaining 39.9 Mt of Federal coal within the LBA1 tracts and would result in an additional 162.5 acres of disturbance within the LBA1 tracts.



The DEIS analyzes in detail four alternatives:

Alternative 1 - Proposed Action: SCM would mine the remaining 39.9 Mt of Federal coal in accordance with the life-of-mine mining sequence outlined in SMP C1979012.

Alternative 2 - Partial Mining: SCM would mine in accordance with the life-of-mine mining sequence in SMP C1979012, but would be limited to a five-year term. Further mining of LBA1 tracts after the five-year term would require a new recommendation from OSMRE to ASLM and a new mining plan modification approval from ASLM.

Alternative 3 - Accelerated Mining Rate: SCM would mine the remaining 39.9 Mt of Federal coal at a rate of 18 million tons per year.

Alternative 4 - No Action: the Federal mine plan modification for the LBA1 tracts would not be approved, and SCM would no longer be able to mine Federal coal in the LBA1 tracts.

OSMRE has not yet identified the preferred alternative. The DEIS Chapter 6 identifies the environmentally preferred alternative as required by 40 CFR 1502.14(f).

For more information on the DEIS and to access relevant documents, please visit the project page on the OSMRE website: <https://www.osmre.gov/laws-and-regulations/nepa/projects>

How to Provide Comments:

Mail:

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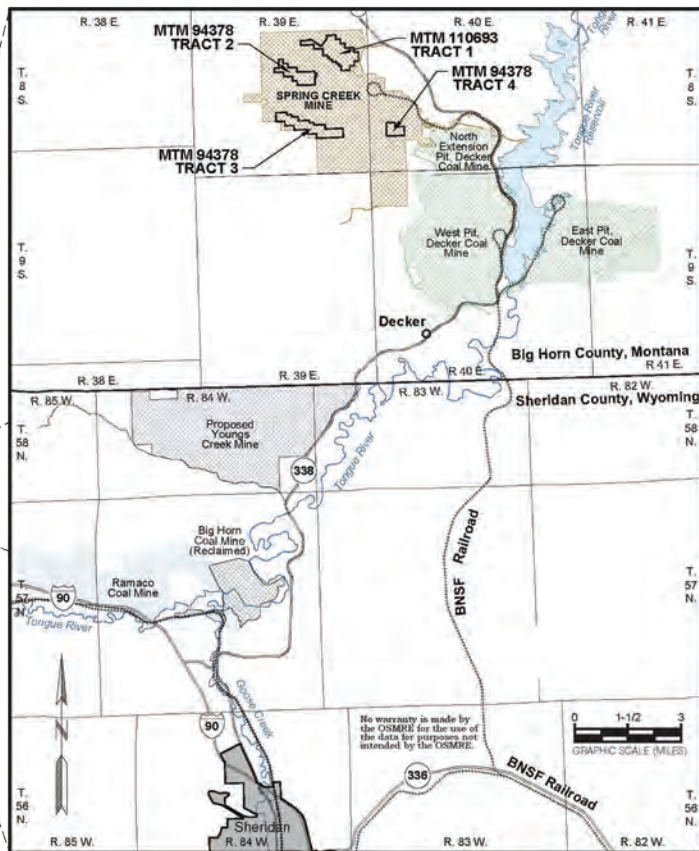
Email:

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Be sure to send emails with the subject line:

ATTN: Spring Creek Mine LBA1 EIS.

All comments must be received or postmarked by October 22, 2024 to be considered. Additional information regarding the DEIS may be obtained from Marcelo Calle at (303) 236-2929 or mcalle@osmre.gov.



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