

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Little Snake Field Office  
455 Emerson Street  
Craig, CO 81625-1129**

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2015-0035-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COD047201

PROJECT NAME: Blue Mountain Energy Coal Lease COD047201 Readjustment

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. T.2N., R.101W., sec. 2, NW; sec. 3, NE; sec. 10, NENE;  
sec. 11, NENW, W½NW, lot 3.

APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Lease COD047201 is subject to a 10 year readjustment of its terms and conditions. The current terms and conditions are examined to decide if they should be readjusted. The LSFO specialists reviewed the current terms and conditions. There were no changes made to the current lease terms and conditions.

LAND USE PLAN (LUP) CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action was reviewed for conformance (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) with the following plan:

Name of Plan: Little Snake Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: October 2011

Results: The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP goals, objectives, and management decisions:

Allow for the availability of the federal coal and oil shale estate for exploration and development. Objectives for achieving these goals include:

- Identify and make available the federal coal and oil shale estate for exploration and development, consistent with appropriate suitability studies, to increase energy supplies.
- Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of the federal coal and oil shale estate.
- Promote the use of BMPs, including implementation of sound reclamation standards.

Section/Page: RMP-36

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR Part 46.210 and qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9F(2). This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46.215 applies:

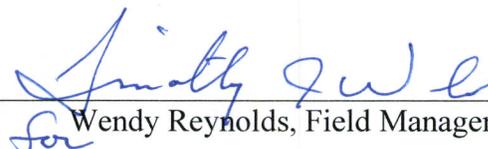
Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Title	Resource	Date
Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	09/14/2015
Rangeland Mgmt Spec	T&E Plants	08/26/2015
Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animals	08/31/2015

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):NAME OF PREPARER: Jennifer MaioloNAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:*Kathy McKinstry*DATE:*9/15/15*COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

This action is listed in the Department Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 11) as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

  
 Wendy Reynolds, Field Manager
DATE SIGNED:*9/15/15*

## Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Jennifer Maiolo, Mining Engineer, Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, CO 81625, Phone (970) 826-5077.