

potentially affected by the proposed plan amendment will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources.

The BLM will consult with Indian Tribal Nations on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175, BLM Manual 1780 and other Departmental policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with Indian Tribal Nations and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 43 CFR 46.435 and 43 CFR 1610.2)

Joseph Stout,
State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407–014–004–065516; #O2412–014–004–047181.1]

Draft Environmental Assessment, Public Hearing, and Request for Comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment, Maximum Economic Recovery, and Fair Market Value for the Falkirk Mining Company Proposed Emergency Federal Coal Lease-By-Application and Mining Plan for NDM 111489, McLean County, ND

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) announce that a

draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and comment for the Falkirk Mining Company's emergency Federal coal lease-by-application (LBA) for Falkirk Mine, serial number NDM–111489, and mining plan for the proposed NDM–111489. The BLM and OSMRE also announce that a public hearing will be held to receive comments on the draft EA, Fair Market Value (FMV), Maximum Economic Recovery (MER), and on factors that may affect the FMV and MER determinations of the coal resources contained in the proposed LBA lease tracts. The BLM and OSMRE take these actions in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended.

DATES: The draft EA will be available for public comment on June 23, 2025. To receive due consideration, written comments must be received by the BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office no later than July 7, 2025.

A public hearing will be held on July 7, 2025, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Mountain Time.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the Underwood City Hall located at 88 Lincoln Avenue in Underwood, ND 58576. Any updates to the public hearing will be provided through the ePlanning project website and a press release.

The draft EA and documents pertinent to this proposal are available for review on the BLM ePlanning project website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2037729/510>. Please submit your comments to this website.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tessa Wallace, BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office, Solid Minerals, 5001 Southgate Dr. Billings, MT 59101; telephone: 406–896–5086; email: tlwallace@blm.gov.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Ms. Wallace. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose and need for the BLM's Federal action is to respond to Falkirk Mining Company's emergency LBA to lease Federal coal resources at the Falkirk

Mine in North Dakota. The Federal tracts contain approximately 11.3 million tons of minable coal over approximately 800 acres, which could be mined through 2045. The purpose of OSMRE's Federal action is to conduct an analysis of the potential environmental effects of the proposed mining plan for the proposed NDM 111489 lease. OSMRE will use this analysis to inform its recommendation to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, who may approve, disapprove, or approve with conditions the proposed Federal mining plan. Three alternatives are analyzed in the draft EA.

Comments on the draft EA, FMV, and MER received from the public will be considered and incorporated as appropriate into the final EA and written report.

The tracts for the proposed NDM 111489 lease underlie private surface and are described as follows:

Fifth Principal Meridian, ND

Fifth Principal Meridian, ND

T. 146 N., R. 82 W.,
Sec. 2, lots 3 and 4, and S¹/₂NW¹/₄;
Sec. 3, lots 1 and 2, S1/2NE¹/₄, and SE¹/₄;
T. 146 N., R. 83 W.,
Sec. 24, SE¹/₄;
T. 144 N., R. 84 W.,
Sec. 12, NW¹/₄.

The areas described aggregate 799.96 acres, according to the surveys of the said land, on file with the BLM.

Through this notice, the BLM and OSMRE are inviting the public to provide comments regarding the potential environmental impacts related to the proposed action and any factors that may affect the determinations of the FMV and MER.

Any proprietary information or data that you submit to the BLM must be marked as confidential and mailed directly to the BLM Montana-Dakotas State Office, Attention: Tessa Wallace (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) to assure the data will be treated in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations governing the confidentiality of such information or data. A copy of the comments submitted by the public on the draft EA, FMV, and MER for the tracts, except those portions identified as proprietary and that meet one of the exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act, will be available for public inspection at the BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other

personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6, 43 CFR 3425.3 and 3425.4)

Joshua F. Alexander,

*Deputy State Director, BLM Montana/
Dakotas.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[PO#482000251; Order #02412–014–004–047181.0]

Intent To Prepare the Bakersfield Field Office Oil and Gas Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Potential Resource Management Plan Amendment, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) California intends to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) and a potential resource management plan (RMP) amendment for the Bakersfield Field Office. The supplemental EIS will analyze the impacts of oil and gas leasing and development on BLM-managed public land and mineral estate in the Bakersfield Field Office planning area exclusive of the California Coastal National Monument and the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Lands withdrawn from mineral entry by law, including national monuments and designated wilderness areas, would remain unavailable for leasing and development. This notice initiates the process to solicit public comments to identify issues and announces a potential RMP amendment.

DATES: The BLM requests that the public submit comments by July 23, 2025. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the draft supplemental EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to this supplemental EIS and potential RMP amendment through the BLM National NEPA Register: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2037500/510>.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined during regular business hours at Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield Field Office, 35126 McMurtrey Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93308.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Mathews, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 35126 McMurtrey Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93308, telephone: (661) 391–6145; or email: BLM_CA_BKFO_OIL_GAS_SEIS@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Ms. Mathews. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM California Bakersfield Field Office will prepare, in accordance with FLPMA and NEPA, a supplemental EIS for oil and gas leasing and development and a potential RMP amendment for the 2014 Bakersfield Field Office RMP. Furthermore, this document announces the beginning of the scoping process and seeks public input on issues and planning criteria, which may inform whether the BLM will amend the current RMP. Based on information gathered during scoping, the BLM may consider additional alternatives.

The planning area is located in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, and Ventura counties in California and encompasses approximately 400,000 acres of public land and an additional 450,000 acres of Federal mineral estate (*i.e.*, split estate). In addition, the BLM intends to include an analysis in the supplemental EIS concerning a previous implementation level decision issuing seven oil and gas leases, encompassing 4,134 acres of public land in Kern County.

The scope of this land use planning process does not include addressing the evaluation or designation of areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) and the BLM is not considering ACEC nominations as part of this process.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the supplemental EIS is to analyze the environmental effects of oil and gas leasing and development within the planning area and to determine whether changes are needed to the fluid minerals decisions in the Bakersfield Field Office based on new information or changes in circumstances. The need to develop the supplemental EIS is established by the settlement agreement in Case No. 2:20–cv–00371–DSF and Case No. 1:21–cv–00475–DAD–SAB, filed with the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California Western Division and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California on July 29, 2022.

Preliminary Alternatives

Portions of the plan will be brought forward from the existing Bakersfield RMP approved on December 22, 2014, and all alternatives from the supplemental EIS for hydraulic fracturing approved on December 12, 2019, will be considered. The potential for an RMP amendment is dependent upon alternative selection. The BLM welcomes comments on all preliminary alternatives as well as suggestions for additional alternatives.

Planning Criteria

Preliminary issues for the supplemental EIS have been identified by BLM personnel; Federal, State, and local agencies; and other stakeholders. The issues may include but are not limited to air quality; water quality; special status species; archaeology; fluid mineral resources (oil and gas); and social and economic conditions.

Preliminary planning criteria include:

1. Only those portions of the existing plan that need to be updated to respond to the issues and management concerns identified in the court order and settlement agreement will be reviewed. Other portions of the plan will be brought forward from the existing Bakersfield RMP approved on December 22, 2014, and the supplemental EIS for hydraulic fracturing approved on December 12, 2019.

2. The planning process will be completed in compliance with FLPMA and all other applicable laws.

3. The planning process will include a Supplemental EIS that will comply with the NEPA standards.

4. The scope of analysis will be consistent with the level of analysis in approved plans and in accordance with Bureau-wide standards and program guidance.

5. Public comments will be addressed during the planning process.