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cc: *Ann*
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
(UT-930-01-1320-01)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Utah

ACTION: Notice of Public Hearing and Call for Public Comment on Fair Market Value and Maximum Economic Recovery; Coal Lease Application UTU-78562 (Whitmore Canyon Tract)

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces a public hearing concerning the proposed action of offering a Federal coal lease tract for competitive coal lease sale and requests public comment on the fair market value of the coal resources and acknowledgment of any environmental concerns concerning this proposed action. The lands included in the delineated Federal coal lease tract (Whitmore Canyon) are located in Carbon County, Utah, approximately 4 miles north of East Carbon City. The surface in this area is both private and BLM administered public land with the coal being Federally owned. The Whitmore Canyon tract is described as follows:

- T. 13 S., R. 13 E., SLM, Utah
Section 35: SE, S2SW;
- T. 14 S., R. 13 E., SLM, Utah
Section 1: Lots 2-7, S2NW, SW, W2SE, SWNE;
Section 12: Lots 1-4, S2N2, SE, NESW;
Section 13: NENE;
- T. 14 S., R. 14 E., SLM, Utah
Section 6: Lot 6;
Section 7: Lots 3 and 4;
Section 18: Lot 1, E2NW.
Containing 1,646.34 acres more or less

The Tract received application for a coal lease by Andalex Resources Inc. and the Intermountain Power Agency (a 50/50 joint ownership). The companies plan to mine the coal as an extension from their existing West Ridge Mining operation if the lease is obtained. The Whitmore Canyon Tract has one potentially minable coal seam which is the Upper Sunnyside Seam. The minable portions of the seam in this area are from 6 to 9 feet in thickness and average 8 feet. This tract contains an estimated 15 - 20 million tons of recoverable coal. In-place coal samples indicates the average coal quality as follows: 12,682 Btu/lb., 7 percent moisture, 6.7 percent ash, and 1.02 percent sulfur. The public is invited to the hearing to make public or written comments on the environmental implications of leasing the proposed tract, and also to submit comments on the fair market value (FMV) and the maximum economic recovery (MER) of the tract.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: In accordance with Federal coal management regulations 43 CFR 4322 and 4325, a public hearing shall be held on the proposed sale to allow public comment on and discussion of the potential effects of mining and proposed lease. Not less than 30 days prior to the publication of the notice of sale, the Secretary shall solicit public comments on fair market value appraisal and maximum economic recovery and on factors that may affect these two