



Memorandum

TO: Coal Policy Task Force
Leasing Subcommittee

FROM: Katie Sweeney, Executive Vice President & Chief
Operating Officer

DATE: July 22, 2025

SUBJECT: BLM Initiates Scoping Process to Reopen the PRB to
New Coal Leasing

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) this month took the first step to revise two Biden administration resource management plans (RMPs), the [Miles City Field Office](#) RMP and the [Buffalo Field Office](#) RMP, that foreclosed new federal coal leasing in the Powder River Basin. The publication of the notices in the Federal Register initiates the scoping process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to prepare Environmental Assessments (EAs) for the RMPs. **Comments on the potential RMP amendments are due Aug. 7, 2025.**

The action complies with President Trump's [Executive Order 14154](#) on Unleashing American Energy and a similarly titled [secretarial order](#) issued by Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum directing review of the 2024 RMPs for the Miles City and Buffalo field offices. The National Mining Association (NMA), along with member company Navajo Transitional Energy Company, challenged the 2024 final RMPs in the U.S. District Court for Wyoming as unlawfully placing more than two million acres off-limits to new coal leasing. The court recently remanded the rule on the administration's request to allow reconsideration and possible revision.

In the notice, the BLM requests that industry, state, Tribal, local governments, and other stakeholders provide the BLM with relevant information to help inform the EAs. Specifically, the BLM requests information on the development potential (e.g., location, quality, and quantity) of the BLM administered federal coal mineral estate, surface

resource values related to multiple-use conflicts and the suitability of the planning area for coal development. The BLM will use this information to formulate alternatives that identify areas acceptable for further leasing consideration.

Next Steps

The NMA will participate in the scoping process to advocate for revised RMPs that allow development of coal in the PRB. We will host a Teams call in the near future to discuss our comment strategy. In the meantime, if you have any questions on this matter, please contact Katie Sweeney at ksweeney@nma.org.

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