AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Invitation; US Department of the Interior, Bureau

Action Requested: Discussion

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Please see the attached invitation for the BOCC to participate as a cooperating agency in the BLM's preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Federal Coal Program.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Katherine Haase **Submitter's Email Address:** khaase@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:
ok - gs

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\gstuhr Discharge Date: 10/10/2016 Certificate of Insurance Required Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\khaase Discharge Date: 10/10/2016

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 2

Agenda Date: 10/18/2016

Revised April 2015

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
http://www.blm.gov

September 26, 2016

Received
County Administration
10/3/16

In Reply Refer To:
3140 (320)

Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison Colorado
200 E. Virginia
Gunnison, CO 81230

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to invite Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison Colorado County to participate as a cooperating agency in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Federal Coal Program pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

On January 15, 2016, the Secretary of the Interior issued Secretarial Order 3338, directing "the BLM to prepare a discretionary PEIS that analyzes the potential leasing and management reforms to the current Federal Coal Program. The Order was issued in response to a range of concerns raised about the Federal Coal Program, including, in particular, whether American taxpayers are receiving a fair return from the development of these publicly owned resources; market conditions, which have resulted in dramatic drops in coal demand and production in recent years, with consequences for coal-dependent communities; and whether the leasing and production of large quantities of coal under the Federal Coal Program is consistent with the Nation's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change. In light of these issues, the Coal PEIS will identify and evaluate potential reforms to the Federal Coal Program.

Section 1501.6 of the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations for NEPA outlines a process for inviting participation other agencies as cooperating agencies in the NEPA process. Such involvement is based on another agency having either jurisdiction by law, or special expertise regarding any environmental issue to be addressed in the NEPA document. Because of Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison Colorado's jurisdiction by law or special expertise, we are requesting Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison Colorado to be a cooperating agency.

On March 30, 2016, the BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to initiate the Coal PEIS process. Scoping will conclude late summer 2016. The BLM intends to complete the Coal PEIS within three years of issuance of the NOI.

Please complete the enclosed form indicating whether or not you would like to participate as a cooperating agency; and if not, at what level you would like to be involved in this analysis, if at all. Please return the form by October 21, 2016, per the instructions included.

You can contact Christina Reed at (303) 239-3677 or by e-mail at creed@blm.gov if you have any questions. You can also refer to our website to obtain more information about the Federal Coal PEIS at: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/coal_and_non-energy/details_on_coal_peis.html

The BLM places great importance in working effectively with its governmental partners through cooperating agency relationships. We look forward to our interactions and discussions with you and your agency. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Nedd
Assistant Director,
Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management

Enclosure

Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison Colorado

Date: _____

Please select your preferred level of involvement in the BLM's Federal Coal Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS):

☐ We would like to work with the BLM as a cooperating agency. We understand that a Memorandum of Understanding will be developed between us and the BLM that will describe responsibilities and procedures agreed to by both parties.

☐ We do not want to participate as a cooperating agency, but we do want to provide input to the BLM's environmental analysis. Please keep us informed as the analysis progresses.

☐ We do not want to participate in the Coal PEIS process.

Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison Colorado

Signature: _____

Please return this form to Christina Reed at 2850 Youngfield St., Lakewood, CO 80215 or by e-mail to creed@blm.gov by October 26, 2016.