

FACT SHEET - NORTH FORK PLANNING UNIT

Public Review, March 1974

Total Federal coal lease.....15,447 acres

Federal coal lease - Private surface..... 3,999 acres

16 active leases - 3-7 producing

Atlantic-Richfield has 3 leases totaling 7,460 acres. They are producing from 1 of these - 1,381 acres.

U. S. Steel has 6 leases totaling 5,959 acres. They are producing from portions of 3 - or 2,000-4,000 acres.

Western Slope Carbon has 3 leases totaling 1,248 acres, and are producing from all 3.

Annual total production is \pm 1,000,000 tons.

At this production rate there is enough coal to last over 2500 years.

Royalties to the U. S. from all leases from the time of issuance to the present is \$1,320,208.

There are 3 coal lease applications within the superior reserves totaling 14,135 acres, as follows:

Empire	C-13135	7,902 acres
Atlantic-Richfield Co.	C-3021	5,888 acres
Western Slope	C-17596	345 acres

In Area A (superior reserves) there are approximately 1.9 billion tons of recoverable reserves. The only 4 active mines are producing from this area. All of the existing leases except two or 100 acres, are within this area. All of the lease applications are within this area. There are 5 minable coal seams of excellent coal.

In Area B (excellent reserves) there are approximately .3 billion tons of recoverable coal. The coal considered to be the highest quality found in the North Fork is minable from 3 seams.

In Area C (Good reserves) there are recoverable reserves of approximately .6 billion tons. Coal data other than outcrop information is scant. This area has the lowest rank coal of the unit. Over 30 mines dotted the landscape along the outcrop exposures. Due to economics and Bureau of Mines safety standards, all of these mines are now closed.

The western half of Area A and all of Area C are in Delta County. The remaining Area A and Area B are in Gunnison County.

COAL LEASE RESPONSE

March 1974

1. Are there locations in the North Fork Study Area where new coal leases should be let? - If "yes," where and why?
2. Are there locations in the study area where NO new coal leases should be let? - If "yes," where and why?
3. What about timing - Do we need new leases now? In 2 years? 5 years? 10 years? -- Why?
4. Other comment: