

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Pollyanna 8 Mine
Federal Lease OKNM 91190
Permit 4243F, Revision 1998
Mining Plan Modification Decision Document

A. Introduction

In September 2017, Georges Colliers, Inc. (GCI) applied to the Oklahoma Department of Mines (ODM) for a revision to the Pollyanna 8 Mine permit (ODM Permit 4243F) in LeFlore County, Oklahoma. Permit revision application 1998F to expand underground mining operations into two new tracts was approved by ODM on July 25, 2018. One tract contains 520 acres of federal coal and the other tract has 320 acres of private coal. Access to these new coal reserves will be from the active mine portal located about three miles to the east through existing underground mine workings. All 840 acres of surface land above these new coal tracts are privately owned.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a 520-acre expansion to GCI's Federal Coal Lease OKNM 91190 on May 1, 2018. Annual production of Hartshorne coal from the Pollyanna 8 Mine may range from 400,000 to 500,000 tons. Coal recovery from the new tracts will extend the life of Pollyanna 8 Mine by five to eight years.

No surface disturbance is planned in the process for recovering new coal reserves by underground methods. Support facilities at the mine portal—coal mine waste disposal, equipment storage, employee parking, mine office, coal stockpile and load-out, sediment and dust control, and other features associated with an underground mine—will continue to be used. Support facilities are within the 286-acre permit area of Pollyanna 8 Mine, an area for which there is a reclamation bond.

The November 2018 environmental assessment (EA) associated with this finding of no significant impact addresses possible effects from mining operations authorized by revision 1998F to ODM permit 4243F. The EA also considers cumulative effects of other mining operations within and adjacent to this permit and the associated BLM Lease OKNM 91190.

The proposed underground mining operation is located in Sections 25 and 36, T9N, R25E and Sections 29 and 30, T9N, R26E LeFlore County, Oklahoma. These new mine areas are about a mile southeast of the town of Spiro.

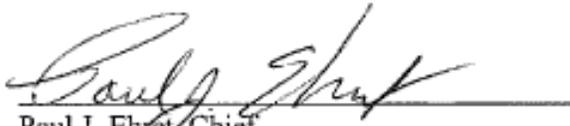
Under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management must approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the modified mining plan for Federal lease OKNM 91190. By 30 CFR Part 746, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) recommends approval of this mining plan modification.

B.Statement of Environmental Significance of the Proposed Action

The deciding official has determined that the proposed action would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4332(2)(C). Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

This finding of no significant impact is based on the attached OSMRE November 2018 EA. Much of the November 2017 BLM EA was incorporated by reference in the OSMRE November 2018 EA. None of the environmental effects identified in the EA meet the definition of significance as defined by context and intensity considerations at 40 CFR § 1508.27 nor is the proposed action likely to have a significant effect on the human environment. The EA analyzed in detail six issues that were identified from scoping completed by OSMRE and BLM throughout the leasing and permitting stages. Rationale was provided for the remaining identified issues that came forward from scoping and were eliminated from detailed analysis in the EA. The six issues analyzed in detail included the potential impacts of greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants released by mining and utilization of the coal from the project, truck haulage, quality of shallow groundwater and Poteau River water quality, availability of coal for domestic uses, and subsidence.

OSMRE independently evaluated the subject EA as of the date specified below and has determined that they adequately and accurately assess the environmental impacts of the proposed action and provide sufficient evidence and analysis for this finding of no significant impact. OSMRE takes full responsibility for the accuracy, scope, and content of the November 2018 EA prepared in cooperation with ODM.


Paul J. Ehret, Chief
Program Support Division
Mid-Continent Region

2/11/2019
Date

Attachment