

Feasibility Finding
For
Relocating Wyoming Highway 59
Campbell County, Wyoming


December 2014

The Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) has determined the proposal submitted by Alpha Coal West, Inc. (Alpha) to relocate approximately 4.35 miles of Wyoming Highway 59 (WYO 59) to allow mining operations in the vicinity of Eagle Butte Mine to continue is feasible to construct with minor modifications. It is located in a non-coal area between Rawhide and Eagle Butte Mines and is consistent with local planning documents. The alignment can be designed to meet WYDOT design standards and ensure continued access along the state highway system.

The project will be completed in conjunction with a County project connecting relocated WYO 59 and Garner Lake Road. Campbell County signed a resolution on August 5, 2014, initiating the procedure to establish the connecting road, which will be a County road. This connecting road segment, if constructed, satisfies feasibility issues for relocating WYO 59 brought forward as part of the stakeholder engagement.

WYDOT has determined that there will be some unavoidable impacts associated with relocating WYO 59. Impacts will occur primarily to surface waters, including wetlands and floodplains; to vegetation and wildlife; and to mining operations of nearby mines. None of the potential environmental impacts identified preclude WYDOT from approving the relocation of WYO 59 as proposed. Impacts that cannot be minimized will need to be mitigated by Alpha as part of design and construction.

This feasibility finding is based on the Environmental Overview Report and Feasibility Study and subsequent comments received during opportunities for agency and stakeholder input. WYDOT has determined that it is in the best public interest to allow WYO 59 to be relocated as proposed by Alpha. WYDOT recommends that a design and construction agreement for relocating WYO 59 be developed between WYDOT and Alpha.


Mark Gillett, P.E.
District Engineer

 12-5-14
Timothy L. Stark, P.E.
Environmental Services Engineer