



FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT AND NAVAJO MINE ENERGY PROJECT EIS

ABOUT THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION
AND ENFORCEMENT

SURFACE MINING CONTROL AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 1977 (SMCRA)

SMCRA ensures that coal mining operations are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. It also ensures that the land is adequately reclaimed during and following the mining process.

OSM's mission is to carry out the requirements of SMCRA in cooperation with States and Tribes.

OSM:

- Regulates coal mine reclamation
- Protects the environment
- Provides resources to States and Tribes

OSM is the lead agency in preparing the EIS and has the primary responsibility for complying with NEPA.

OSM is responsible for:

- Approving or denying BHP Billiton Navajo Coal Company's application for a new mine area, known as the Pinabete Permit area
- Approving or denying the 2014 Navajo Mine Permit renewal
- Consulting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for potential impacts to threatened and endangered species
- Consulting with State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for potential impacts to cultural and historic resources
- Working with Cooperating Agencies for other regulatory aspects of the EIS

Since 1977, approximately 23,000 acres of 39,000 acres of coal mining disturbance on Navajo and Hopi lands have been backfilled, graded, top-soiled, and seeded.



Passage of SMCRA has facilitated the provision of \$7 billion to States and Tribes to reclaim more than 220,000 acres of abandoned mine lands. (Annual Report 2009)

