



OSMRE
Colowyo Mine
South Taylor/Lower Wilson EA
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



- For OSMRE to make a decision on the mining of federal coal, NEPA requires OSMRE to disclose the potential environmental impacts (individually and cumulatively) and to consider reasonable alternatives to the proposal.
- NEPA also requires public involvement in the environmental review process and the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.
- This EA will help OSMRE evaluate whether the proposal would have significant effects on the quality of the human environment, either individually or cumulatively.
- The significance of impacts is defined by: 1) context, which includes society as a whole, the affected region, affected interests, and the locality, and 2) the intensity, or severity, of the impact.
- The level of analysis depends on the significance of impacts:

Categorical Exclusion (CE) - Categories of federal actions that federal agencies have determined do not have a significant impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) - Federal actions that require analysis to decide whether they would have significant impacts.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - Federal actions that would have significant impacts.

- If OSMRE determines there would be no significant impacts, a Finding of No Significant Impact would be issued and the NEPA process would be completed. If OSMRE determines there would be significant impacts that cannot be mitigated to a level of non-significance, an EIS would need to be prepared.