



## ***PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT***

### **Availability of the Navajo Mine Area IV North Revised Environmental Assessment**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 15, 2015

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ANNOUNCER OR PRE-RECORDING

(120 Seconds)

ATTENTION REGARDING THE NAVAJO MINE AREA FOUR NORTH. PURSUANT TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT HAS PREPARED A REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, WHICH AMENDS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT IN 2012. THE 2012 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WAS USED TO SUPPORT OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT'S MARCH 16, 2012, APPROVAL OF THE AREA FOUR NORTH PERMIT REVISION APPLICATION TO ADD MINING AREA TO THE NAVAJO MINE.

ON APRIL 6, 2015, THE COLORADO FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT VACATED THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT'S 2012 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT; AND ALSO VACATED THE AGENCY'S MARCH 16, 2012, PERMIT REVISION APPROVAL. IN MAKING THE APRIL 6, 2015, DECISION, THE COURT CONCLUDED THAT THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT VIOLATED THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT BY FAILING TO ADEQUATELY CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS RELATED TO THE COMBUSTION OF COAL TO BE MINED AS A RESULT OF ITS APPROVAL OF THE AREA FOUR NORTH PERMIT REVISION APPLICATION.

AS DIRECTED BY THE COURT DECISION, THE REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT EVALUATES THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE COMBUSTION OF THE COAL MINED IN AREA FOUR NORTH, AND AS A RESULT OF THIS ANALYSIS, THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT MAY REAPPROVE NAVAJO TRANSITIONAL ENERGY COMPANY'S PROPOSED EXPANSION INTO AREA FOUR NORTH OF THE NAVAJO MINE.

THE REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED AND CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [W-W-W-DOT-W-R-C-C-DOT-O-S-M-R-E-DOT-GOV-FORWARD SLASH-AREA-I-V-N-E-A-DOT-S-H-T-M](http://W-W-W-DOT-W-R-C-C-DOT-O-S-M-R-E-DOT-GOV-FORWARD-SLASH-AREA-I-V-N-E-A-DOT-S-H-T-M) OR CALL MYCHAL YELLOWMAN, OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR, AT 303-293-5049.

THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT WELCOMES YOUR INPUT ON THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT. PLEASE SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO: MYCHAL YELLOWMAN, O-S-M-R-E WESTERN REGION, 1999 BROADWAY, SUITE 3320, DENVER, COLORADO 80202-3050.