OFFICE of SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION and ENFORCEMENT
U.S. Department of the Interior

Trapper Mine, C-07519 and C-079641, Environmental Assessment

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

National Environment Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA requires the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) to disclose the **potential environmental impacts** (individually and cumulatively) and to consider **reasonable alternatives** to the mining plan modification proposal. NEPA also requires **public involvement** in the environmental review process and the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

This Environmental Assessment (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 **context**, which includes society as a whole, the affected region, affected interests, and the locality; and 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** (FONSI) 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.

OSMRE will use the NEPA document to develop a Mining Plan Decision Document and make a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management