



## United States Department of the Interior



### OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Western Region Office  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202-3050

October 13, 2015

Dear Interested Public Land User,

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region, will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze environmental impacts of a Federal mining plan approval for current and future mining within Federal Coal Leases Nos. C-079641 and C-07519 held by Trapper Mining Inc. as part of the Trapper Mine. The EA will cover the time period beginning July 1, 2015, and continuing through the planned life of mine for the portion of the two Federal coal lease areas lying within the approved Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) Permit Area (the Project). As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the EA will disclose the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the environment from the Project.

Preparation of the EA will be completed pursuant to the Court-approved Joint Proposed Remedy, as approved by the United States District Court for the District of Colorado on September 14, 2015, in the case entitled *WildEarth Guardians v. U.S. Office of Surface Mining et al.*, Case 1:13-cv-00518-RBJ (D. Colo. 2015). As part of the Court-approved remedy, OSMRE agreed to conduct a new NEPA analysis for Trapper's current and future mining activities within Federal Coal Leases Nos. C-079641 and C-07519.

The Trapper Mine is located approximately 6 miles south of the town of Craig in Moffat County, Colorado, east of Colorado Highway 13. The proposed Project is occurring on two federal coal leases administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and located within the eastern portion of the Trapper Mine's approved SMCRA Permit Area. Federal Coal Lease C-07519 was issued by the BLM in June 1958 and Federal Coal Lease C-079641 was issued by the BLM in October 1962. The leases within the SMCRA Permit Area cover a total of approximately 2,423 acres of Federal mineral estate. As of July 1, 2015, approximately 19 million tons of recoverable Federal coal remains within the Project area. The Trapper Mine uses a combination of dragline, truck shovel, and highwall mining methods to remove the overburden and mine the coal.

The EA will update, clarify, and provide new and additional environmental information for the Project. As a result of the EA process, OSMRE will determine whether or not there are significant environmental impacts. An environmental impact statement will be prepared if the EA identifies significant impacts. If a finding of no significant impact is reached, and pursuant to 30 CFR 746.13, OSMRE will prepare and submit to the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management (ASLM) a mining plan decision document recommending approval, disapproval, or conditional approval of the mining plan. The ASLM will approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve the mining plan approval document within the mining plan decision document, as required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.

OSMRE will hold an open-house public outreach meeting that will include displays and handouts explaining the status of the Project. The public outreach meeting will also provide opportunities to ask questions of OSMRE and Trapper representatives about the Project and the NEPA process, and opportunities to provide written comments on the project. **The meeting will be held on October 29, 2015, from 4-8 pm at Moffat County Fairgrounds, Pavilion Building, 640 E. Victory Way, Craig, Colorado 81625.**

OSMRE is soliciting public comments on the Project. Your comments will help to determine the issues and alternatives that will be evaluated in the environmental analysis. You are invited to direct these comments by mail to:

OSMRE WR  
C/O: Nicole Caveny  
Trapper Mine EA  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202-3050

Comments may also be emailed to: [osm-nepa-co@osmre.gov](mailto:osm-nepa-co@osmre.gov), ensure the subject line reads: ATTN: OSMRE, Trapper Mine MPDD EA. Comments sent by mail or email should be postmarked or received no later than November 12, 2015, in order to be considered during the preparation of the EA. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this Project and will be available for public inspection. Additional information regarding the Project may be obtained from Nicole Caveny at (303) 293-5078. When available, the EA and other supporting documentation will be posted at, and may be obtained from, <http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/trappermine.shtm>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcelo Calle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Marcelo Calle, Manager  
Field Operations Branch