



OSMRE
Colowyo Mine
South Taylor/Lower Wilson EA
Mine Permitting



Primary Laws Related to Authorizing the Mining of Leased Federal Coal

- Mineral Leasing Act of 1920
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)
- Clean Air Act of 1970
- Clean Water Act of 1972
- Endangered Species Act of 1973
- Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977
- Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act of 1980

Process to Authorize Mining of Leased Federal Coal Resources

1.) Mine Permit - CO Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety

- Reviewed Colowyo's Permit Application Package for compliance with state rules and required technical mining and environmental information.
- Consulted with federal and local agencies, and other entities.
- Included a public comment period.
- Issued a proposed decision to approve the Permit Revision with conditions, and a finding of compliance with the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act, for the Colowyo Coal Mine (Permit No. C-1981-019).
- Approved Colowyo's Mine Permit Revision 2 with conditions, including the requirement that the U.S. Department of the Interior must approve a mining plan modification before mining of federally leased coal can begin.

2.) Recommendation on the Mining Plan Modification Decision - OSMRE

- Consult federal/state agencies, tribes, and local governments.
- Prepare an environmental review of the proposed mine plan under NEPA.
- Document the proposed mining plan modification and supporting information in a Mining Plan Decision Document (MPDD).
- Make a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) on the decision for the proposed mining plan modification.

3.) Mining Plan Decision - ASLM

- Review the MPDD including the NEPA and supporting documents.
- Make a decision to approve, disapprove, or approve with conditions the proposed mining plan modification.