



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

AIR QUALITY

Background and Regulatory Changes

- Under the Clean Air Act of 1970, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that regulate the ambient concentration of various air pollutants
- NAAQS exist for particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, indicating particles with a diameter of 10 or 2.5 micrometers or less, respectively), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), and ozone. EPA announced a more restrictive ozone NAAQS on October 1, 2015.
- In 2011, EPA set greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting standards
- The Trapper Mine C-07519 and C-079641 Environmental Assessment will address direct mining emissions and indirect emissions associated with coal combustion. The air quality study will address how these emissions will comply with the NAAQS

Direct Mining-related Emissions at Trapper Mine

- PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, including drilling, blasting, coal and overburden removal, truck traffic on mining roads, and wind erosion at disturbed areas
- NO_x (atmospheric chemistry term for total concentration of nitric oxide and NO₂), SO₂, and CO emissions associated with fuel combustion in mining equipment and trucks
- GHG emissions, including fugitive methane releases from the coal seams and emissions from fuel combustion in the mining equipment and trucks

Indirect Emissions from Coal Combustion at the Craig Station

- Emissions of criteria air pollutants, including ozone precursors (SO₂, NO_x, CO, volatile organic compounds, and PM₁₀/PM_{2.5})
- GHG emissions (i.e., CO₂) from coal combustion
- Emissions of mercury and other regulated hazardous air pollutants
- Emissions from placement of coal combustion residuals within the mine

Trapper Mine Permitting — Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Air Pollution Control Division

- Trapper Mine has a valid CDPHE air quality permit, most recently updated in 2009.

