



United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

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

January 20, 2016

Dear Interested Party,

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Western Region, has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze environmental impacts of a federal mining plan approval for current and future mining within Federal Coal Lease Nos. C-07519 and C-079641 held by Trapper Mining Inc. as part of the Trapper Mine. The EA covers 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). The EA has been prepared to support a decision by OSMRE as to whether a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) can be reached for a proposed mining plan modification for the Project. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the EA discloses the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the environment from the Project.

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.

Preparation of the EA has been 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 Lease Nos. C-07519 and C-079641.

The EA updates, clarifies, and provides new and additional environmental information for the Project. OSMRE is responsible for reviewing plans to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on lands containing leased Federal coal. Pursuant to 30 CFR 746.13. The EA would support an OSMRE recommendation to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) for a decision on whether or not to approve the proposed mining plan modification. OSMRE must prepare and submit a mining plan decision document to the DOI ASLM recommending approval, disapproval, or approval with condition(s) of the proposed mining plan modification. The ASLM will approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve the mining plan modification, as required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.

OSMRE invites you to comment on the EA and unsigned FONSI. The EA and unsigned FONSI will be available for review beginning January 25, 2016. All comments must be received or postmarked by February 19, 2016 to be considered.

The EA and unsigned FONSI are available for review online at:
<http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/initiatives/trappermine.shtm>

Printed versions of the EA and unsigned FONSI will also be available for review at the following locations:

- OSMRE, Western Region
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202
Between the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)
- Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203
Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)
- Moffat County Building
221 W. Victory Way, Suite 130
Craig, CO 81625
Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)
- Moffat County Library
570 Green St.
Craig, CO 81625
Between the hours of: 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM Monday and Tuesday 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM Wednesday through Friday 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM Saturday (Closed Sunday)
- Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson St.
Craig, CO 81625
Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)
- Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office
220 East Market St.
Meeker, CO 81641
Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)
- Rio Blanco County Courthouse
555 Main St.
Meeker, CO 81641
Between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday (Closed Saturday and Sunday)
- Meeker Public Library
490 Main St.
Meeker, CO 81641
Between the hours of 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 AM and 9:00 PM, Saturday 9:30 AM and 2:00 PM (Closed Sunday)
- Rangely Public Library
109 E. Main St.
Rangely, CO 81648
Between the hours of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM Tuesday and 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Saturday (Closed Sunday)

You are invited to direct your comments on the EA and unsigned OSMRE FONSI to:

ATTN: OSMRE, Trapper Mine EA, C/O: Nicole Caveny, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, CO 80202.

Comments may also be emailed to OSM-nepa-co@OSMRE.gov. Be sure to send emails with the subject line: ATTN: OSMRE, Trapper Mine EA.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – will be publicly available. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public review to the extent consistent with applicable law.

OSMRE kindly requests that you refer to the specific chapter, section, and/or page number of the EA and/or FONSI that is associated with your comment. Additional information regarding this Project may be obtained from Nicole Caveny at (303) 293-5078 or ncaveny@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcelo Calle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "C".

Marcelo Calle, Manager
Field Operations Branch