

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This application for a permit to conduct coal surface mining and reclamation activities for Trapper Mining Inc.'s Trapper Mine is submitted in compliance with the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (PL 95-87), the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act of 1979 (HB 1223) and regulations pursuant thereto.

This application is organized into four major sections by subject matter plus a series of appendices. Section 1.0 provides legal and financial information about Trapper Mining Inc. Section 2.0 describes the existing environment at Trapper Mine. Section 3.0 details the facilities, structures and procedures to be used at the mine. Section 4.0 explains how activities will be conducted to minimize environmental effects and what the effects are expected to be. Sections 3.0 and 4.0 discuss both mining and reclamation activities since these actions are integral to each other. Reclamation encompasses all actions, modified or additional, carried out to mitigate and erase negative impacts to the physical, biological, cultural and social environments in accordance with PL 95-87 and HB 1223.

The appendices contain technical reports, calculations, correspondence and other materials used to arrive at the conclusions presented in Sections 1.0-4.0. This was done to control the bulk of the main body of the application, while allowing the reader to review the detailed information that contributed to the application if so desired.

The information included in the application covers a five-year period of operation, i.e. calendar 2023 through calendar 2027.

## 1.1 Location and History of Trapper Mine

The Trapper Mine is located in northwest Colorado along the northern slope of the Williams Fork Mountains, approximately four to six miles southwest of the City of Craig. The boundaries of the permit area are about six miles long (east to west) by two miles wide (north to south) (Figure 1.1-1).

Utah International Inc. began exploration drilling operations for Trapper Mine in 1954 to obtain geologic information on the structure of coal beds and estimates of mineable coal reserves. In 1973, Utah International Inc. and four electric utilities signed a contract for delivery of coal to fuel the mine mouth Craig Generating Station. This coal delivery obligation of approximately 104 million tons over a 52 year period will require strip mining six to seven thousand acres of land since the start of mining activities in 1977 and continuing into the year 2028.

Environmental studies for the Trapper Mine were started in 1972 and intensified in 1973 and 1974. Most of those studies will continue throughout the life of the project. Trapper Mine's objective is to reclaim the disturbed lands to as good as or better condition than before mining. A high priority is attached to the reclamation programs, all of which are designed to protect wildlife, water, air quality and other environmental resources of the mine area.

The shop and warehouse buildings were completed in November of 1975, while the office complex was completed in November of 1976. The construction of the first of three 30 cubic yard walking draglines started in February, 1976.

Actual mining operations began in May, 1977, and coal deliveries started in August, 1978.

The original owner of Trapper Mine was Utah International, Inc. (Utah), an international mining company. All initial permitting and mining efforts were performed by Utah. In July, 1982, Utah formed a subsidiary called Trapper Mining Inc. to consolidate and hold the properties and rights that make up Trapper Mine. In July, 1983, Trapper Mining Inc. was purchased by the owners of the Craig Generating Station, the electric utility receiving its coal from Trapper Mine. Section 1.2 of this application provides further information concerning the owners of Trapper Mining Inc.