

2.1 General Description of Mining Operations

The operation will extract coal from the Cameo Coal Seam in portions of the proposed permit area as shown in Figure 2.1-1. The operation is conducted from a bench excavated at this coal outcrop. Activities are conducted underground as described in Section 2.1.5 and shown in Figure 2.1-2. The excavated bench area (1.42 acres) is designed for support activities and facilities, see Figure 2.2-2 and 2.2-6. The mine plan details the mining proposed for this permit term as well as addressing life of mine projections for the entire permit area.

The bench area and access was originally approved through a joint on site inspection by the USGS, BLM and Company representatives. All facilities and structures are confined to the disturbed and proposed disturbed area. The initial bench excavation and access road construction that were originally approved by the USGS and BLM constitute a major portion of the overall disturbance. Additional area in the vicinity of the canyon mouth was approved for use for ancillary facilities such as sedimentation control structures, see Figure 2.2-2. If additional facilities are necessary, they will be constructed only after modification and approval of this permit.

While the mine is kept in an idled state, there will not be any Coal Mine Waste generated. If the need arises for a Coal Mine Waste pile, it will be constructed according to the plans set out in TR-16.