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**STATE'S MINING OPERATIONS REPORT MATERIALS
MANAGED ON-SITE AND SUBMITTED TO EPA**

DENVER – Members of Colorado's mining industry, subject to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), filed reports by July 1, 2006, documenting "releases" made during calendar year 2005. This reporting program is also commonly referred to as the Toxics Release Inventory or TRI. The Colorado Mining Association and its member companies are providing the following information and explanation as a community service.

The amounts reported for the 2005 reporting period include:

- Climax Molybdenum Co. Henderson Mill, Parshall: just over 3.2 million pounds, of which 99 percent is naturally occurring;
- Climax Molybdenum Company Henderson Mine, Empire: about 160,000 pounds, of which the bulk is manganese, a naturally occurring metal that is also used in alloys and food supplements;
- Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company Cresson Project, Victor: almost 2.9 million pounds, of which more than 99 percent is naturally occurring;

- Trapper Mining’s surface coal mining operation, Craig: slightly more than 2.3 million pounds, 99 percent consists of naturally occurring metal compounds found in coal ash used as backfill in reclamation.

“As an industry, we feel it is important for the public to know what materials are being used, in what quantity, and how the mines safely manage these materials,” said Stuart Sanderson, president of the Colorado Mining Association.

Mining operations are permitted and monitored at the local, state and federal levels, resulting in an extremely low or negligible level of risk to employees and to the public health and safety, or the environment.

“Nearly all of these materials occur naturally in the rock or coal ash handled at the mines,” Sanderson said. “These materials are placed in permitted, engineered structures that are reclaimed in a timely manner.” In many instances, the mines recycle materials for use in road construction or apply them to other beneficial uses, such as backfill to support reclamation activities.

TRI reports submitted to the EPA involve raw numbers. The EPA TRI reporting forms do not allow for explanations of how the materials are being safely managed and the low level of risk these materials present to human health or the environment. The EPA reports also do not explain that all releases are fully authorized under mining permits issued by the state or other authorities. The industry, therefore, has been providing information to the public on materials management and exposure since reporting started in 1999.

“There is little to no risk to human health and the environment associated with the mines’ reported “releases” of the EPA-listed substances, because the mines have implemented effective and efficient materials management practices,” Sanderson said. “Basically, the reports do not acknowledge that the majority of the materials are minute concentrations of naturally occurring constituents found in the rock or coal ash – substances that are present whether or not the materials are mined. The TRI reports on the materials do not address or account for the mines’ management practices, the strict permitting requirements, or the environmental monitoring conducted.”

All of Colorado’s mines must obtain permits under federal, state, and local laws and conduct their operations in compliance with these permits. Colorado’s mines apply

technology effectively to protect human health and the environment. Monitoring and reporting are used to verify that hydrologic and surface conditions are suitable for the safe and effective management of the materials at mines. All of the operations are also subject to frequent inspection by local, state, and federal regulatory authorities.

While some operations reported a higher amount of releases due to improving economic conditions or increased production, overall reported releases associated with mining are down by more than 60% since 2001.

CMA worked closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) in developing a Pollution Prevention (P2) Program and acceptable Code of Practices (Code) for the mining industry. The P2 Code has been endorsed by the CDPHE and recognized by the EPA through a 2003 Friend of EPA Award. Several CMA member companies, including the three mentioned above, have certified their participation in and compliance with the P2 Code and received awards with special recognition from CMA along with an endorsement for consideration by the CDPHE in its Environmental Leadership Program.

Colorado's mines have long been responsible to the communities they serve and in which they operate. They have encouraged members of the community to find out for themselves by visiting the operations and asking questions. In addition to the mines, the Colorado Mining Association's Web site, www.coloradomining.org, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology are also able to answer questions on reportable materials and substances.