

## 5.0 MITIGATION

Surface mining and reclamation are reaching a mature stage in Wyoming and the EPRB. Advances in reclamation technology have taken place in part due to a progressively advancing regulatory framework that began with Wyoming's 1969 Open Cut Land Reclamation Law, was further developed under Wyoming's 1973 Environmental Quality Act, and has culminated in today's Wyoming State Program approved under the 1977 Federal Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act.

Many measures to reduce or eliminate (mitigate) adverse effects of surface mining have now become standard industry practice. Examples are listed in Appendix D.

Work done in the preparation of this EIS has not identified any environmental features at the Rocky Butte property which would make it unusually difficult to mine or reclaim using conventional technologies. However, considerable work remains to be done before a permit to mine can be issued, even if the Proposed Action is taken and the WRB lease tract is sold. During the permit process, any remaining environmental issues would be identified by Wyoming DEQ and OSM, and the mine PAP would be revised to address these issues. Minor issues left unresolved at that stage may result in permit conditions or stipulations. The permittee's response to these conditions can be considered mitigation, but specific measures cannot be predicted at this time.