The Vernal 1 Project was located in Uintah County in Coal Mine Basin, about 3-5 miles northwest of Maeser and 7 miles northwest of Vernal. It consisted of nine separate abandoned coal mine sites (Coal Mine Basin NALI #1 & #2, C.C. Rich, Timothy, Wardle, Fletcher, Farmers, Helco, Maeser, and Old Boundary). Their proximity to a subdivision and ease of access from Vernal made them concerns. A motorcyclist was severely burned in 1982 when he broke through a crust in a burning coal refuse pile at one of the mines.

The mines were mostly wagon and truck mines that operated from the 1890s to the 1940s. The mines had numerous open and caved portals, large coal refuse piles, and remains of loading facilities and equipment.

The AMRP in the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Utah Department of Natural Resources, was created in 1983 to address physical safety hazards associated with abandoned mines as authorized by the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act (SMCRA) of 1977. The Program is funded by The Utah Coal Producers who pay an abandoned mine reclamation fee to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) on each ton of coal mined in Utah.
Vernal 1 Project: Coal Mine Basin, 1985 -- Construction Summary

Minchey Digging Inc. of Cleveland, Utah was awarded the contract for the project. The work at the sites included mine portal closures, backfilling a subsidence hole, demolition and burial of hazardous structures and equipment debris. Coal refuse piles were recontoured, topsoiled, and reseeded.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Project Cost:**
  - Bid Amount $194,270.00
  - Final Amount $200,142.14

- **Change Orders:**
  - 5: $5,872.14 net increase
  - additional portal closures
  - grading/drainage earthwork

- **Project Dates:**
  - Start: May 17, 1985
  - Finish: November 7, 1985
  - 125 Work Days
  - 175 Calendar Days

- **Accomplishments:**
  - Mine Closures (adits): 19
  - Subsidence: 1
  - Site Grading/Earthwork: 44,700 cyd
  - Revegetation: 19 acres