



# Public Service Commission

## State of North Dakota

---

### COMMISSIONERS

Susan E. Wefald, President  
Kevin Cramer  
Tony Clark

Executive Director  
Illona A. Jeffcoat-Sacco

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept 408  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480  
web: [www.nd.gov/psc](http://www.nd.gov/psc)  
e-mail: [ndpsc@nd.gov](mailto:ndpsc@nd.gov)  
TTY 800-366-6888 or 711  
Fax 701-328-2410  
Phone 701-328-2400

December 19, 2007

Mr. Jeff Towner, Field Supervisor  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
3425 Miriam Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

Dear Mr. Towner:

The Public Service Commission is planning reclamation activities in 2008 on the Columbus Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Site and the Williams County Road 9 AML Site. Both of these projects are continuations of reclamation work conducted last year. We also plan to conduct sinkhole filling projects near Beulah, New Leipzig, Noonan, Sawyer, Scranton, Washburn, Wilton, and Williston. These projects will be conducted by contractors selected through competitive bidding.

The 2008 Columbus Project is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 14 and the N $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 23, T162N, R94W, Burke County, North Dakota. This abandoned surface coal mine site contains hazardous highwalls. The plan of action for proposed reclamation activity will be to backfill hazardous highwalls with material from areas adjacent to the highwalls and nearby spoil piles. The total surface area to be affected in 2008 will be approximately 80 acres.

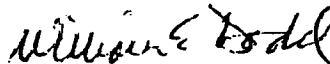
The 2008 Williams County Road 9 Project is located along Williams County Road 9 and several township roads in Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, T154N, R100W and in the Grandview Subdivision east of Williston. The plan of action for proposed reclamation activity will be to inject cementitious grout through drilled holes into abandoned underground mined workings and thereby stabilize the surface from future mine collapse. The total area of surface disturbance in 2008 is expected to be less than ten acres.

The 2008 sinkhole filling projects will be conducted at several sites throughout the state to backfill dangerous sinkholes caused by the collapse of underground mined workings. The areas of surface disturbance will be directly proximal to the sinkholes and will probably not exceed a total of 10 acres at all sites.

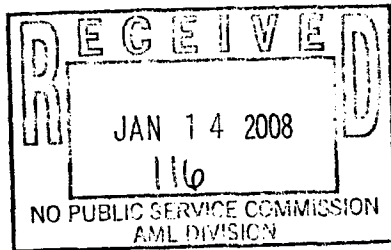
As part of the grant application process, our office is required to obtain concurrence that the proposed reclamation work will not adversely affect any threatened, endangered or rare animal species. We would appreciate your review and concurrence for the work proposed at these sites. Please reply regarding these proposed projects by January 11, 2008.

Attached are maps showing general locations of these proposed reclamation projects. Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at [wdodd@nd.gov](mailto:wdodd@nd.gov) or 701.328.4101.

Sincerely,



William E. Dodd,  
Assistant Director  
Abandoned Mine Lands Division



<p><b>U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>ECOLOGICAL SERVICES</b> ND FIELD OFFICE</p> <p><b>Project as described will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. No endangered or threatened species are known to occupy the project area. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT PLANS FOR REVIEW.</b></p> <p>1-11-08 Date</p> <p><i>Jeffrey K. Towner</i> Jeffrey K. Towner Field Supervisor</p>
--