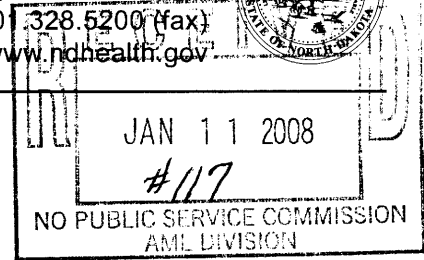




NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
Gold Seal Center, 918 E. Divide Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947
701.328.5200 (fax)
www.ndhealth.gov



January 11, 2008

William Dodd, Assistant Director
Abandoned Mine Lands Division
Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Consultation Request for 2008 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Projects

Dear Mr. Dodd:

We appreciated the opportunity to review and discuss the proposed abandoned mine reclamation projects described in your December 19, 2007 letter.

As we discussed during our January 10, 2008 meeting, the proposed work at the Columbus AML site would require a NDPDES permit for the construction disturbance and dewatering. We also recommended that a general water chemistry sample from the mine pit be analyzed before dewatering starts. The permit does require the development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPP) plan to outline measures that will be implemented for erosion and sediment control as well as construction dewatering on the site. Once the site is stabilized as outlined in the general permit, you may terminate permit coverage. A copy of the permit conditions and related forms are available on our web site at:

<http://www.health.state.nd.us/wq/Storm/Construction/ConstructionHome.htm>

The Department has no further comments or concerns regarding surface water impacts from the sinkhole filling reclamation projects identified in the proposal. Should you have any questions or need assistance on the permit application, please contact me at 701-328-5239.

Sincerely,

Randy Kowalski
Environmental Scientist
Division of Water Quality

RK:dlp