



Public Service Commission

State of North Dakota

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September 23, 2008

Mr. Jeffrey Fleischman, Director
OSM Casper Field Office
PO Box 11018
150 East B Street - Room 1018
Casper, WY 82602-5004

Dear Mr. Fleischman:

The Reclamation Division has received Final Bond Release Application No. 1 for Surface Coal Mining Permit BNCR-8006 and Final Bond Release Application No. 1 for Surface Coal Mining Permit BNCR-8202 at the BNI Coal, Ltd., Center Mine. The bond release applications for portions of Section 26, T142N, R84W in Oliver County involves approximately 475.7 acres of land reclaimed as cropland, shelterbelts, and roads (section line and a rebuilt county road). These bond release applications contain acreage where federal coal was mined in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (see attached map); therefore, OSM concurrence will be needed before bond release approval. These tracts were field inspected by Mr. Gene Robinson from your staff and Dr. Steve Schroeder and Mr. Bruce Johnson from our staff on June 5, 2008.

A CD of the bond release applications is enclosed. Please review and notify us of any concerns. The Reclamation Division is also conducting a technical review of the applications.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Deutsch".

James R. Deutsch
Director
Reclamation Division

Enclosures