

APPROVAL:

DATE: 12-3-08



## MOTION

December 3, 2008

**Public Service Commission  
2008 AML Coal Fire Suppression Grant  
Application**

**Case No. AM-08-753**

I move the Commission authorize procurement of construction services using competitive sealed bidding procedures for suppressing coal fires at numerous sites in western North Dakota.


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# PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

State of North Dakota

## Memorandum

To: Commissioners Wefald, Cramer and Clark  
Darrell Nitschke, Executive Secretary

From:  Jim Deutsch, Director - AML Division

Date: November 26, 2008

Subject: Procurement of construction services for suppressing coal fires in western North Dakota

Earlier this fall the AML Division has awarded a \$40,000 grant from OSM for suppressing coal fires in western North Dakota. Most of the coal fire sites are located on U.S. Forest Service lands in the Little Missouri National Grasslands in far western North Dakota.

The McKenzie Ranger District of the Forest Service has identified at least 14 coal outcrop fires in northwestern McKenzie County. In addition, there are others on lands in the Forest Services' Medora Ranger District and on private lands in McKenzie, Billings, and Slope Counties. To the best of our knowledge the highest priority sites are located in McKenzie County. Grass fires over the past 10 years are the likely cause of these uncontrolled coal outcrop fires. The coal fires pose a significant risk of starting new grass fires.

OSM has informed us that they have issued an Authorization to Proceed for the coal fire suppression project using the \$40,000 awarded for this purpose. An Invitation for Bids (IFB) has been prepared and we plan a bid opening in late December. The coal fire suppression project is expected to be carried out in the first quarter of 2009. This project will be a continuation of similar work conducted beginning in 2003 and continuing through 2007.

I recommend the Commission authorize procurement of construction services for suppressing coal fires at numerous sites in western North Dakota. Attached is a motion for the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Commission meeting.