

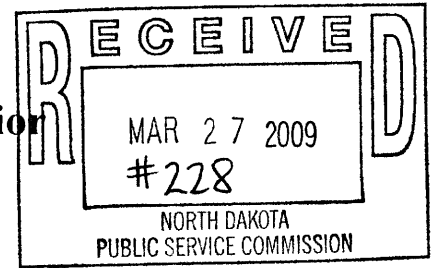


IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement
Casper Field Office
150 East "B" Street, Rm 1018
Casper, Wyoming 82601



March 27, 2009

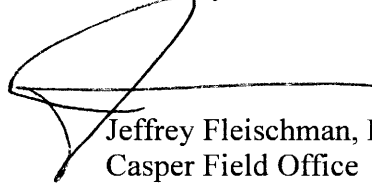
Mr. James Deutsch, Director
Reclamation & AML Divisions
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) has reviewed the standardized environmental assessment and supporting documentation for the 2009 Prestangen Ranch Coal Outcrop Fire Project, located in McKenzie County, North Dakota. We have determined that the documentation adequately discusses the environmental issues and impacts associated with the project. Based on the analysis of these documents, I have determined that reclamation of this site would not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment, and therefore conclude that no environmental impact statement (EIS) is necessary.

Accordingly, pursuant to section 5-11-20D.3 of the Federal Assistance manual, you are hereby authorized to proceed with this project.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Fleischman, Director
Casper Field Office