



John Hoeven, Governor
 Douglass A. Prchal, Director
 1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3
 Bismarck, ND 58503-0649
 Phone 701-328-5357
 Fax 701-328-5363
 E-mail parkrec@nd.gov
 www.parkrec.nd.gov

May 28, 2009

FROM DIRECTOR - RECLAMATION DIV.

ND Public Service Commission
 600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408
 Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Date: _____

Action: _____

RE: Falkirk Mining Company Application to Renew Surface Coal Mining Permit NAFK-8705

Info. Only: _____

Dear Sir or Madam:

Info & File: _____

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed the above referenced proposal from Falkirk Mining Company to renew a surface coal mining permit with lands located in Sections 3-6, 8, and 9, T145N, R82W; Sections 19, 20, and 27-34, T146N, R82W; Section 1, T145N, R83W; and Sections 22-27, 35, and 36, T146N, R83W; McLean County.

Our agency scope of authority and expertise covers recreation and biological resources (in particular rare plants and ecological communities). The project as defined does not affect state park lands that we manage or Land and Water Conservation Fund recreation projects that we coordinate.

The North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database has been reviewed to determine if any plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, there are no known occurrences within or adjacent to the project area.

Because this information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be species of concern or otherwise significant ecological communities in the area that are not represented in the database. The lack of data for any project area cannot be construed to mean that no significant features are present. The absence of data may indicate that the project area has not been surveyed, rather than confirm that the area lacks natural heritage resources. We would appreciate receiving a hard copy or digital copy of the wildlife and botanical surveys and evaluations for the project area.

Regarding any reclamation efforts, we recommend that any impacted areas be revegetated with species native to the project area.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal and ecological community conservation, management and inter-agency cooperation to date. For additional information please contact Kathy Duttonhefner (701-328-5370 or kgduttonhefner@nd.gov) of our staff. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Jesse Hanson, Coordinator
 Planning and Natural Resources Division

R.USNDNHI*2009-131

9 RC-09-107 Filed 06/12/2009 Pages: 1
 Comments filed on the Renewal Application
 North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department
 Jesse Hanson

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Play in our backyard!