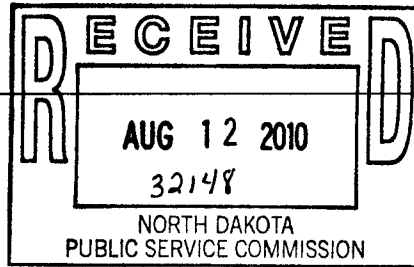


United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458



August 11, 2010

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

RE: Revision No. 30 – Surface Coal Mining Permit BNCR-9702 to add 676.48 acres to the western portion of the permit area in Sections 21, 29, and 32 at the Center Mine.

Dear North Dakota Public Service Commission:

This letter is in reference to the BNI Coal, Ltd. Application for Revision No. 30 to Surface Coal Mining Permit BNCR-9702 to add 676.48 acres to the western portion of the permit area.

Upon review of this revision, we did not find deficiencies in the prime farmland section. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will not be submitting comments. Thank you for the opportunity to review this revision and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul J. Sweeney".

PAUL J. SWEENEY
State Conservationist