Public Service Commission
State of North Dakota

COMMISSIONERS

Kevin Cramer
Tony Clark
Brian P. Kalk

Executive Secretary
Darrell Nitschke

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept 408
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480
Web: www.nd.gov/psc
E-mail: ndpsc@nd.gov
Phone 701-328-2400
Toll Free 1-877-245-6685
Fax 701-328-2410
TDD 800-366-6888 or 711

January 13, 2010

Paula Bachmeier, Vice President/Manager
Minot Guaranty and Escrow Company
1829 South Broadway, Ste. 1
Minot, ND 58701

RE: Title Memorandum for the 2010 Buechler/Velva Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Project

Dear Ms Bachmeier:

The North Dakota Public Service Commission requests a cost estimate for a title memorandum showing a complete chain of title from patent to and including the current legal and equitable surface ownership interest; the date and manner ownership interests were acquired; and, any outstanding encumbrances for abandoned mine lands sites legally described as follows:

> The E½E½ of Section 27, all of Section 28, and the NE¼ of Section 30, T152N, R81W, Ward County (see attached maps).

There must be no limitation of liability on behalf of your company. The successful bidder will be required to become an approved vendor on the State's Vendor Database prior to contract award. Registration instructions and forms are available on-line at http://www.state.nd.us/csd/spo/vendor-resources.htm or by calling the North Dakota State Procurement Office at 701-328-2683.

Please submit your written estimate by 11:00 a.m., January 29, 2010. The successful bidder will be expected to enter into a contract with the Commission and to complete all work on or about March 10, 2010. A sample contract is also attached. If you have any questions feel free to call me at 701-328-4101.

Sincerely,

William E. Dodd

William E. Dodd
Assistant Director
Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Enclosures

3 AM-10-37 Filed 01/13/2010 Pages: 13
Request for Title Memorandum Bid Sent Out
Public Service Commission
Bill Dodd

Figure 1
2009 Beuchler/Velva Aerial Mapping and Topographic Maps
Project Area General Location

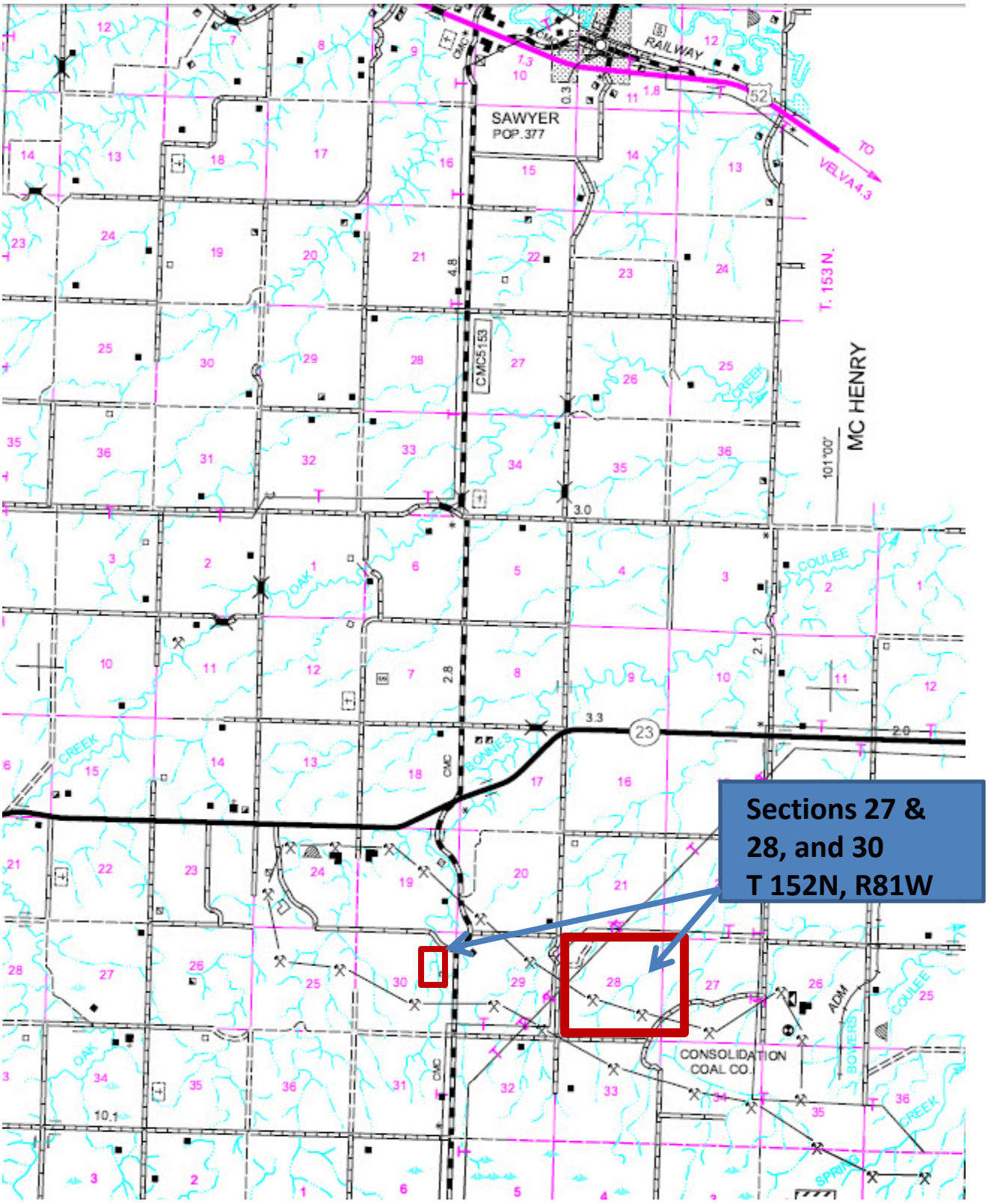


Figure 2, Approximate Project Survey Area
Sections 28 and Portion of Section 27, T152N, R81W, Ward County

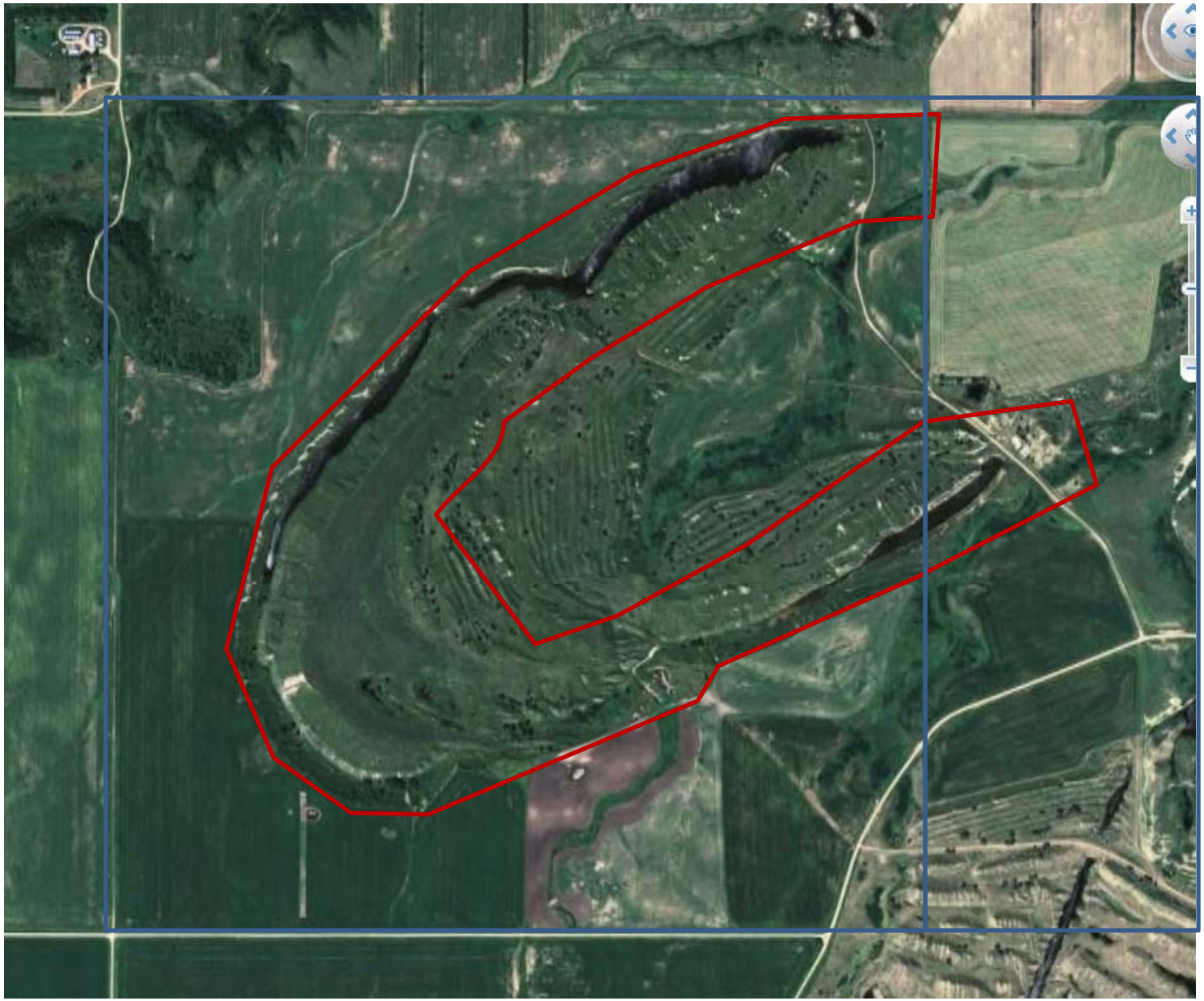
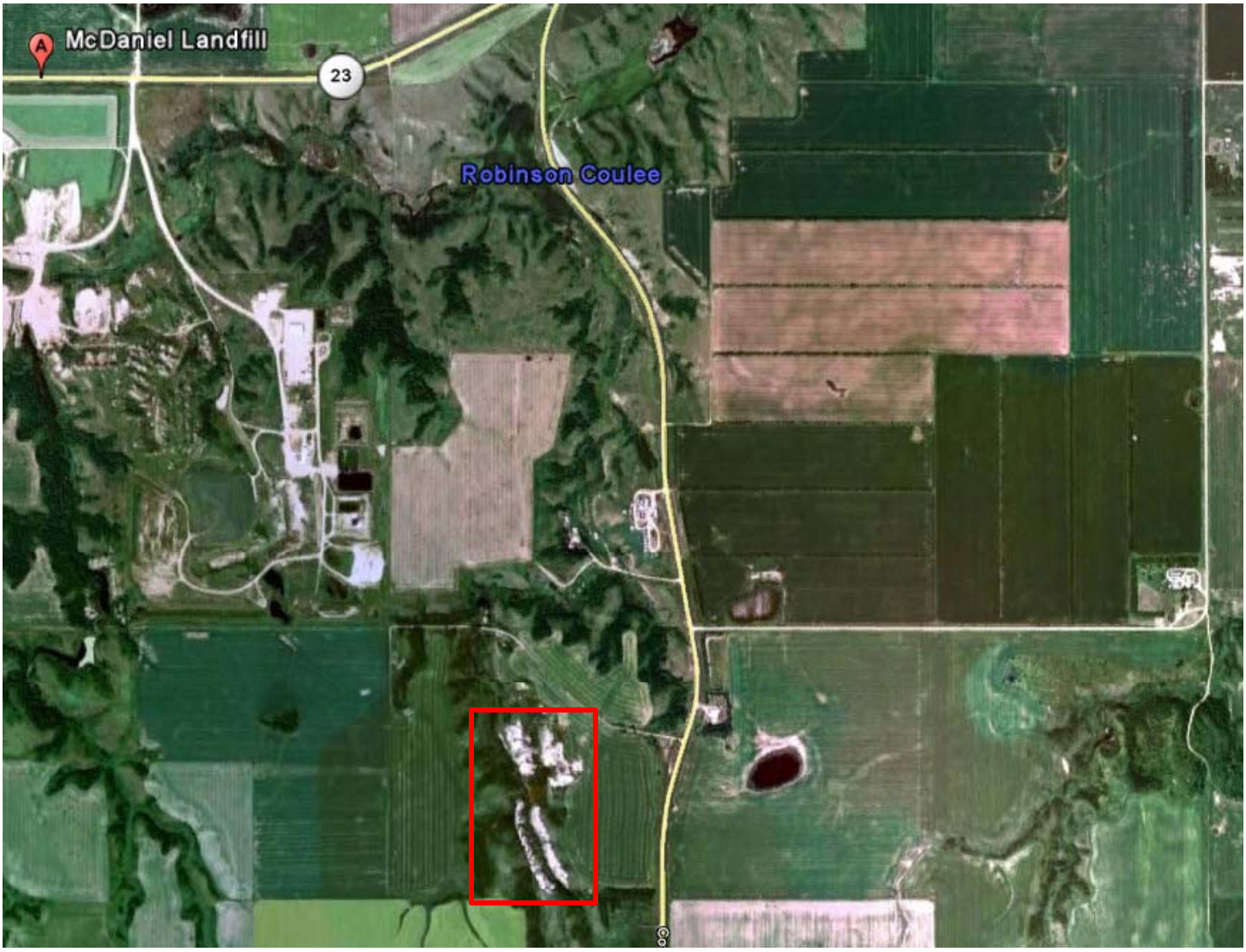


Figure 3, Approximate Project Survey Area
NE ¼ Section 30, T152N, R81W, Ward County, “Vix Pit” Area



SAMPLE CONTRACT

Administrator: State of North Dakota
Public Service Commission
State Capitol - 12th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480
(701) 328-2400

Date:

Tony Clark	**Kevin Cramer**	**Brian P. Kalk**
Commissioner	**Chairman**	**Commissioner**

Contractor		
Name		
Address	**City/State/Zip**	**Phone**
Typed Name	**Title**	
Signature	**Date**	

Agreement Information

Contract No.: _____

Start Date: _____

End Date: _____

Program Title: _____

Type of Contract: ( ) Fixed Price
( ) Cost Reimb. ( ) Unit Price
( ) Other

Budget Information

Cost Center: 9000

Services: _____

Optional on-site review: _____

Expenses: _____

ID

Type of Contractor: ( ) Individual
( ) Corporation ( ) Partnership
( ) Public Agency
( ) Nonprofit Organization
( ) Other

This contract is entered into between the State of North Dakota acting through the Public Service Commission (State) and XXX (Contractor). This contract consists of this sheet, general provisions and specific provisions.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CONTRACTUAL FEATURES

LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Contractor assures that it possesses legal authority to participate in this contract.

ASSIGNMENT/SUBCONTRACTING

The Contractor may not assign this contract or any part thereof, or assign any of the monies to be paid hereunder, nor shall any part of the work done or material furnished under this contract be sublet without the State's expressed written consent.

The Contractor may not enter into subcontracts for any of the work contemplated under this contract unless included in the specific provisions of this contract. Any such subcontract must acknowledge the binding nature of the contract and must incorporate this contract, including any attachments. Contractor is solely responsible for the performance of any subcontractor. Contractor shall not have the authority to contract for or incur obligations on behalf of the State.

TERMINATION

The State, by written notice of default listing causes and reasons, may terminate this contract in whole or in part if (1) the Contractor fails to provide services required by this contract within the time specified or any extension agreed to by the State; or (2) the Contractor fails to perform any of the other conditions or provisions of this contract, or so fails to pursue the work so as to endanger performance of this contract in accordance with its terms. The State will be liable only for payment provisions of this contract for services satisfactorily rendered prior to the effective date of termination.

Significant deviation from performance standards in this contract may result in reduced or terminated financial participation of the Contractor, subsequent to negotiations with the State.

This contract may be terminated in whole or in part without cause by mutual consent of the Contractor and the State. The parties shall agree upon the termination conditions including effective date and in the case of partial terminations, that portion to be terminated.

The State may terminate this contract effective upon delivery of written notice to the Contractor or on any later date stated in the notice in the event (1) funding from federal, state or other sources is not obtained and continued at levels sufficient to allow for work performed or purchases of the services or supplies in the indicated quantities or term; (2) federal or state laws or rules are modified or interpreted in a way that the services are no longer allowable or appropriate for purchase under this contract or are no longer eligible for the funding proposed for payments authorized by this contract; or (3) any license, permit or certificate required by law or rule, or by the terms of this contract, is for any reason denied, revoked, suspended or not renewed.

Any contract that extends beyond the current biennium may be terminated by the State if sufficient funds are unavailable, if the law regarding the contract is changed or without cause at any time.

The rights and remedies of the State provided in the termination provisions related to defaults by the Contractor are not exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.

FORCE MAJUEURE

Contractor will not be held responsible for delay or default caused by fire, riot, acts of God or war if the event is beyond the Contractor's reasonable control and the Contractor gives notice to the State immediately upon occurrence of the event causing the delay or default or which is reasonably expected to cause a delay or default.

RENEWAL

This contract will not automatically renew. State will provide written notice to Contractor of its intent to renew this contract at least sixty days before the scheduled termination date.

DISPUTES

The Contractor agrees to attempt to resolve disputes arising from this contract by informal administrative process and negotiations in lieu of litigation. Continued performance by the Contractor during disputes is assured.

Any dispute concerning a question of fact arising under this contract which is not settled by the informal means shall be decided by the authorized representative of the Commission who shall reduce the decision to writing and mail or otherwise furnish a copy thereof to the Contractor.

The Contractor shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard and to offer evidence in support of an appeal. Pending final decision of a dispute, the Contractor shall proceed diligently with the performance of the contract and in accordance with the decision of the Commission.

The State does not agree to any form of binding arbitration, mediation, or other forms of mandatory alternative dispute resolutions. The parties have the right to enforce their rights and remedies in judicial proceedings. The State does not waive any right to a jury trial.

MERGER AND MODIFICATION

This contract constitutes the entire agreement between the parties. There are no understandings, agreements, or representations, oral or written, not specified within this contract. This contract may not be modified, supplemented or amended, in any manner, except by written agreement signed by both parties.

SEVERABILITY

If any term of this contract is declared by a court having jurisdiction to be illegal or unenforceable, the validity of the remaining terms shall not be affected, and if possible, the rights and obligations of the parties are to be construed and enforced as if the contract did not contain that term.

NOTICE

All notices or other communications required under this contract shall be given by registered or certified mail and are complete on the date mailed when addressed to the parties at the following addresses:

State:
Darrell Nitschke, Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Contractor:

APPLICABLE LAW AND VENUE

This contract is governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Dakota. Any action to enforce this contract must be brought in the District Court of Burleigh County, North Dakota.

SPOILIATION – NOTICE OF POTENTIAL CLAIMS

Contractor shall promptly notify State of all potential claims that arise or result from this contract. Contractor shall also take all reasonable steps to preserve all physical evidence and information that may be relevant to the circumstances surrounding a potential claim, while maintaining public safety, and grants to the State the opportunity to review and inspect the evidence, including the scene of an accident.

INDEMNITY

Contractor agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the State of North Dakota, its agencies, officers and employees (State), from claims resulting from the performance of the Contractor or its agent, including all costs, expenses and attorneys' fees, which may in any manner result from or arise out of this agreement. The legal defense provided by Contractor to the State under this provision must be free of any conflicts of interest, even if retention of separate legal counsel for the State is necessary. Contractor also agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold the State harmless for all costs, expenses and attorneys' fees incurred in establishing and litigating the indemnification coverage provided herein. This obligation shall continue after the termination of this agreement.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Contractor agrees not to use or disclose any information it receives from the State under this contract that the State has previously identified as confidential or exempt from mandatory public disclosure except as necessary to carry out the purposes of this contract or as authorized in advance by the State. The State agrees not to disclose any information it receives from Contractor that the Contractor has previously identified as confidential and which the State determines in its sole discretion is protected from mandatory public disclosure under a specific exception to the North Dakota open records law, N.D.C.C. Section 44-04-18. The duty of the State and Contractor to maintain confidentiality of information under this section continues beyond the term of this contract, or any extensions or renewals of it.

Contractor understands that, except for disclosures prohibited in N.D.C.C. Chapter 47-25.1, the State must disclose to the public upon request any records it receives from Contractor. Contractor further understands that any records that are obtained or generated by the Contractor under this contract, except for records that are confidential under N.D.C.C. Chapter 47-25.1, may, under certain circumstances, be open to the public upon request under North Dakota open records law. Contractor agrees to contact the State immediately upon receiving a request for information under the open records law and to comply with the State's instructions on how to respond to the request.

INSURANCE

a. **Required Coverages.** Contractor shall secure and keep in force during the term of this agreement and Contractor shall require all subcontractors, prior to commencement of an agreement between Contractor and the subcontractor, to secure and keep in force during the term of this agreement, from insurance companies, government self-insurance pools or government self-retention funds authorized to do business in North Dakota, the following insurance coverage's:

   (1) Commercial general liability, including premises or operations, contractual, and products or completed operations coverage (if applicable), with minimum liability limits of $250,000 per person and $1,000,000 per occurrence.
   (2) Automobile liability, including Owned (if any), Hired and Non-Owned automobiles, with minimum liability limits of $250,000 per person and $1,000,000 per occurrence.
   (3) Workers compensation coverage meeting all statutory requirements. The policy shall provide coverage for all states of operation that apply to the performance of this contract.
   (4) Employer's liability or "stop gap" insurance of not less than $1,000,000 as an endorsement on the workers compensation or commercial general liability insurance if Contractor is domiciled outside the State of North Dakota.

b. **General Insurance Requirements.** The insurance coverages listed above must meet the following additional requirements:

   (1) Any deductible or self insured retention amount or similar obligation under the policies shall be the sole responsibility of the Contractor. The amount of any deductible or self-retention is subject to approval by the State.
   (2) This insurance may be in policy or policies of insurance, primary and excess, including the so-called umbrella or catastrophe form and must be placed with insurers rated "A-" or better by A.M. Best Company, Inc., provided any excess policy follows form for coverage. Less than an "A-" rating must be approved by the State. The policies shall be in form and terms approved by the State.
   (3) The State will be defended, indemnified, and held harmless to the full extent of any coverage actually secured by the Contractor in excess of the minimum requirements set forth above. The duty to indemnify the State under this agreement shall not be limited by the insurance required in this contract.
   (4) The State of North Dakota and its agencies, officers, and employees (State) shall be endorsed on the commercial general liability policy, including any excess policies (to the extent applicable), as additional insured. The State shall have all the benefits, rights and coverage's of an additional insured under these policies.
   (5) The insurance required in this agreement, through a policy or endorsement, shall include:
      a. A "Waiver of Subrogation" waiving any right to recovery the insurance company may have against the State;

b. A provision that the policy and endorsements may not be canceled or modified without thirty (30) days' prior notice to the undersigned State representative;
c. A provision that any attorney who represents the State under this policy must first qualify as and be appointed by the North Dakota Attorney General as a Special Assistant Attorney General as required under N.D.C.C. Section 54-12-08;
d. A provision that Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary (i.e., pay first) as respects any insurance, self-insurance or self-retention maintained by the State, and that any insurance, self-insurance or self-retention maintained by the State shall be in excess of the Contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it;
e. Cross liability/severability of interest for all policies and endorsements;
f. The legal defense provided to the State under the policy and any endorsements must be free of any conflicts of interest, even if retention of separate legal counsel for the State is necessary; and,
g. The insolvency or bankruptcy of the insured Contractor shall not release the insurer from payment under the policy, even when such insolvency or bankruptcy prevents the insured Contractor from meeting the retention limit under the policy.

(6) The Contractor shall furnish a certificate of insurance and all endorsements to the undersigned State representative prior to commencement of this agreement. All endorsements shall be provided as soon as practicable.
(7) Failure to provide insurance as required in this agreement is a material breach of contract entitling the State to terminate this agreement immediately.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor shall keep informed of and comply with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and other legal requirements governing the safety, health, sanitation, and performance of the contract in general. In addition, the Contractor shall provide, inspect and maintain all safeguards, safety devices, protective equipment, safety programs and other needed actions the Contractor determines necessary to reasonably protect the life, health and property of the Contractor, subcontractors, the State, the public and each of the employees, officers, assigns and agents of the Contractor, subcontractors and the State, in connection with the performance of work resulting from or arising out of the contract.

The Contractor shall submit to the State a copy of the written safety program to be used as guidelines and direction for the Contractor's and subcontractors' activities.
This program must meet all federal, state and local laws, regulations and other legal requirements and include the following minimum provisions: (1) a worksite safety policy and mission statement; (2) assigned responsibilities among management, supervisors and employees; (3) a system for periodic self-inspections, including inspections of job sites, materials, work performance and equipment; (4) a thorough accident and injury reporting and investigation process; (5) a safety orientation program including first aid, medical attention, emergency facilities, fire protection and prevention, housekeeping, illumination, sanitation, personal protective equipment, and occupational noise exposure; and, (6) a safety training program including safety "tool box" meetings and other systems for ongoing training and also including training for employees on the recognition, avoidance and prevention of unsafe conditions.

It will be a condition of the contract, and shall be made a condition of each subcontract entered into pursuant to that contract, that the State is assuming no liability relating to its receipt and review of the Contractor's safety plan or activities. Safety remains the responsibility of the Contractor. Furthermore, the right of the State to receive and review the safety plan or activities shall not give rise to a duty on the part of the State to exercise this right for the benefit of the Contractor or any other person or entity.

ATTORNEY FEES

In the event a lawsuit is instituted by the State to obtain performance due of any kind under this contract, and the State is the prevailing party, Contractor shall, except when prohibited by N.D.C.C. Section 28-26-04, pay the State's reasonable attorney fees and costs in connection with the lawsuit.

INDEPENDENT ENTITY

Contractor is an independent entity under this contract and is not a State employee for any purpose, including but not limited to the application of the Social Security Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Federal Insurance Contribution Act, the North Dakota Unemployment Compensation Law and the North Dakota Workers' Compensation Act. The Contractor retains sole and absolute discretion in the manner and means of carrying out the Contractor's activities and responsibilities under this contract, except to the extent specified in the contract.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES

RECORDS

All records, regardless of physical form, and the accounting practices and procedures of the Contractor relevant to this contract are subject to examination by the North Dakota State Auditor or the Auditor's designee. The Contractor shall maintain and retain all books, records, and other documents required by the State and to produce program narrative and statistical data at times prescribed by the State relevant to this agreement for four years after final payment. Records shall be retained beyond four years if audit findings have not been resolved.

NO CLAIM FOR ADDITIONAL WORK

No claim for additional services not specifically herein provided, done, or furnished by the Contractor will be allowed, nor shall the Contractor do any work or furnish any material not covered by the contract, unless such work is ordered in writing by the State.

TIME KEEPING PROCEDURES

The Contractor shall require employees and subcontractors, if applicable, whose positions are funded under this contract or included as match, to maintain adequate documentation for services provided. For positions that are funded from more than one source, an analysis of duties performed by program shall also be prepared.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND AUDIT

The Contractor agrees to cooperate with any monitoring, evaluating and/or audit conducted by the State, or their designees who shall have full access to and the right to examine all books, records and other relevant documents.

The Contractor agrees to take immediate corrective action on deficiencies disclosed through program monitoring of costs disallowed in the course of an audit, review, or monitoring.

PREPAYMENT

The State will not make any advance payments before performance by the Contractor under this contract. The Contractor will be compensated based on periodic submittal of progress reports.

TAXPAYER ID

Contractor's North Dakota tax ID number is: _____.
Contractor's federal employer ID number is: _____.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and policies, including but not limited to those relating to nondiscrimination, accessibility and civil rights. Contractor agrees to timely file all required reports, make required payroll deductions, and timely pay all taxes and premiums owed, including but not limited to sales and use taxes and unemployment compensation and workers' compensation premiums. Contractor shall have and keep current at all times during the term of this contract all licenses, registrations and permits required by law and shall be authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

No individual shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, subjected to discrimination under, or denied employment in the administration of or in connection with this contract because of race, color, disability, or political affiliation or belief.

The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, sex, political affiliation or belief or citizenship.

NONDISCRIMINATION

This contract and any subcontract hereunder is subject to the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

WORK PRODUCT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

All work product, equipment or materials created or purchased under this contract belong to the State and must be delivered to the State at the State's request upon termination of this contract. Contractor agrees that all materials prepared under this contract are "works for hire" within the meaning of copyright laws of the United States and assigns to State all rights and interests Contractor may have in the materials it prepares under this contract, including any right to derivative use of the material. Contractor shall execute all necessary

documents to enable State to protect its rights under this section. Contractor shall include provisions appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this condition in all subcontracts entered into relating to this project.

BUY AMERICAN ACT

The Contractor agrees to comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41U.S.C. 10a-10c, popularly known as the “Buy American Act”.) This applies to all subcontractors and suppliers of the Contractor. The Contractor will include this clause in all agreements and contracts.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF INVITATION FOR BID

The terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid issued for this project not specifically set forth in this contract are incorporated herein by reference.

EFFECTIVENESS OF CONTRACT

This contract is not effective until fully executed by both parties.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS: