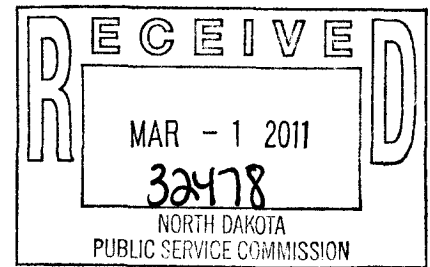


February 25, 2011

ND Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Ave,
Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505



Dear Members of the ND Public Service Commission:

I am writing this letter in request for a formal hearing regarding the mining permit for the proposed South Heart mine. I live with my family in Bismarck, but I was born and raised in southwest North Dakota on a farm near Reeder. I still have a lot of family scattered throughout much of the southwest and am aware of the controversy involved with this issue. I think it is a topic that deserves a conversation and I think a formal public hearing is the proper way to go about this.

Having grown up as the son of a coal miner and farmer I am aware of the benefits of coal to the economy, but I am also acutely aware of the beauty to the country-side in the southwest. Given some of the proposals in this permit I have many concerns that I would like to see hashed out and on the record for the benefit of all the citizens of North Dakota. I believe it is the duty of this commission to call for a public and formal hearing to allow this permit the public debate that it deserves.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Dan Wanek". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Daniel Wanek
831 N 5th St.
Bismarck, ND 58501