



# Public Service Commission

## State of North Dakota

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March 9, 2011

Jesse Hanson, Coordinator  
Planning and Natural Resources Division  
North Dakota Parks and Recreation  
1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3  
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649

Dear Mr. Hanson:

Thank you for providing comments to the ND Public Service Commission regarding Surface Coal Mining Permit Application SHSH-1001. The Reclamation Division is in the process of conducting a technical review of the permit application. The applicant has addressed the ND Natural Heritage Inventory plant species of concern and significant ecological communities in the permit area in Sections 2.7.2.3.5 and 2.7.2.3.6, and Table 2.7.210 of the permit. Additional pre-mining vegetation information for the study area is located in Section 2.7.2 of the permit application, including a complete list of the vascular plant species identified in the study area. A copy of the entire permit application is enclosed for your information.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

James R. Deutsch  
Director  
Reclamation Division

Enclosure

m/South Heart/1001/advisory/2011/Parks&Rec\_ltr\_3-9-11