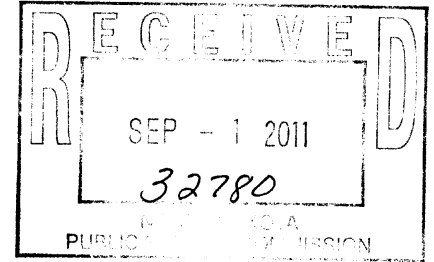


1437 East Gateway Circle
Fargo, ND 58103-3617
August 31, 2011



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

RE: South Heart Coal LLC Surface Coal Mining Permit No. SHSH -1001

Dear Public Service Commissioners:

I am respectfully requesting that the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) schedule an informal public hearing in Fargo concerning the request by South Heart Coal LLC for a surface mining permit application to mine coal near South Heart. This permit application process is clearly an issue that affects all North Dakota citizens, given the proximity of the proposed mine to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Because the June 28th hearing in Dickinson was held during the workweek—300 miles from Fargo—it was unreasonable to expect that interested North Dakota citizens from the eastern half of the state would be able to attend without undue hardship. An informal public hearing in Fargo is not only appropriate but also necessary because eastern North Dakotans are bona fide stakeholders in this permit application process.

The opportunity exists to remedy this disenfranchisement since the informal hearing process for the South Heart project is being held open until deficiencies in the permit application are corrected. The PSC should schedule an additional informal hearing in the Fargo area to assure that all North Dakotans have had an equal chance to fully comment on this important project. This in turn will aid the PSC in making an informed decision regarding the South Heart project.

Thank you for your consideration of this citizen's request.

Sincerely,



Dean Hulse