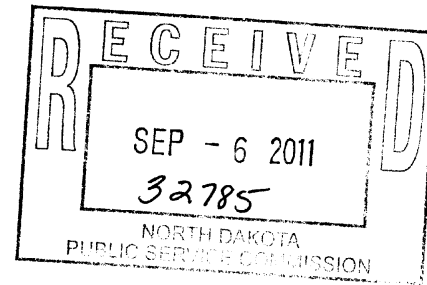


Douglas A. Goulding
327 15th Avenue SE
Devils Lake, ND 58301-7001



August 31, 2011

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

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

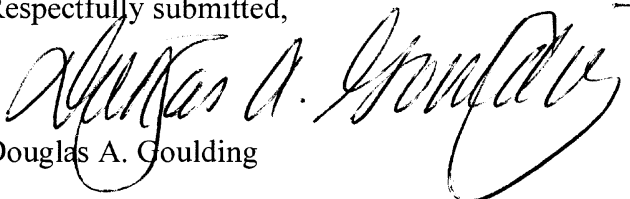
Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to request the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) to schedule and conduct an informal public hearing in Fargo, ND concerning the application by South Heart Coal LLC for a surface mining permit application to mine coal near South Heart, ND. Although the PSC did hold an informal hearing on this mining permit application on June 28, 2011 in Dickinson, ND, this is an issue that affects the entire state of North Dakota.

Because this permit has the potential to adversely affect Theodore Roosevelt National Park, citizens all across the state have a stake in the PSC permitting process. Theodore Roosevelt National Park is North Dakota's only national park, enjoyed by citizens from all across the state of North Dakota. It is important for the PSC to enfranchise citizens in the eastern part of the state who have an interest in preserving the values and purposes for which Theodore Roosevelt National Park was established.

I encourage the PSC to schedule a informal hearing in the Fargo area to ensure that all North Dakotans have an opportunity to participate in the PSC's permitting process. This will aid the PSC in making an informed decision regarding the South Heart project permit application.

Respectfully submitted,


Douglas A. Goulding