



Public Service Commission

State of North Dakota

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24 May 2010

John Walstad
Code Revisor
Legislative Council
600 East Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

Re: N.D.C.C. section 28-32-07 – Extension of nine month time frame

Dear Mr. Walstad:

We appreciate the 90-day extension given to us by the Administrative Rules Committee at its 10 December 2009 meeting. This letter is to request an additional extension of time for these three proposed rules, more specifically as follows:

- **PSC Case No. RC-09-543.** The proposed mining and reclamation rule changes were submitted to the federal Office of Surface Mining in November 2009 for approval as State Program Amendment XXXVIII. On 12 May 2010, staff from the federal Office of Surface Mining indicated to Jim Deutsch, Director of the Public Service Commission's Reclamation Division, that the draft Federal Register notice for approving the changes should be going out to the regional Solicitor's Office for review within two weeks. It is likely this review will take three to four weeks. Following the review, the draft notice will go to the federal Office of Surface Mining headquarters for additional review before it is sent to the Federal Register for publication. We estimate it will take another two to three months before the rules changes are approved by the federal Office of Surface Mining. Once approved by the federal Office of Surface Mining, the Commission can adopt the rule changes and send them to the Legislative Council for review by the Administrative Rules Committee and publication in the North Dakota Administrative Code.
- **PSC Case No. WM-10-63,** rules that are necessary because of the closing of the Metrology Laboratory (2009 House Bill 1008), will be on the agenda of the Commission's next regular meeting on 2 June 2010, for formal proposal and to issue a Notice, with a tentative hearing date of 14 July 2010. We hope these rules can be finalized in time for filing with the Legislative Council by 15 August 2010.

1 **PU-10-159** Filed: 5/24/2010 Pages: 27
Request for extension of nine month time frame

24 **RC-09-543** Filed: 5/24/2010 Pages: 27
Request for extension of nine month time frame

1 **WM-10-63** Filed: 5/24/2010 Pages: 27
Request for extension of nine month time frame

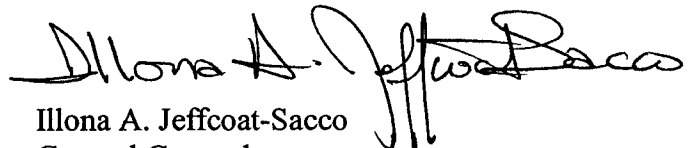
John Walstad
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- **PSC Case No. PU-10-159**, rule implementing the requirement in 2009 House Bill 1449 (N.D.C.C. § 49-02-27) that the commission's wind farm decommissioning rules address present and future natural resource development, will be on the agenda of the Commission's next regular meeting on 2 June 2010, for formal proposal and to issue a Notice, with a tentative hearing date of 14 July 2010.

A copy of each of these proposed rules is attached.

We respectfully request an extension of the statutory time frame for the rules specified above. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,



Illona A. Jeffcoat-Sacco
General Counsel

encl.

CHAPTER 69-05.2-09
PERMIT APPLICATIONS - PERMIT AREA - REQUIREMENTS FOR
OPERATION AND RECLAMATION PLANS

69-05.2-09-02. Permit applications - Operation plans - Maps and plans. Each application must contain an appropriate combination of 1:4,800 scale topographic maps, planimetric maps, and plans of the proposed permit and adjacent areas showing:

1. Scale, date, permit boundaries, company name, legal subdivision boundaries, and legend.
2. Lands to be affected throughout the operation and any change in a facility or feature caused by the operations, if the existing facility or feature was shown under chapter 69-05.2-08.
3. The boundaries of areas to be affected during the permit term according to the sequence of mining and reclamation operations and a description of size and timing of operations for each coal removal subarea.
4. Pit layout and proposed sequence of mining operations, crop line, spoil placement areas, final graded spoil line, highwall areas to be backsloped, and areas for stockpiling suitable plant growth material or other suitable strata.
5. Location of proposed surface water management structures and identification of permanent water impoundments or stream channel alignments.
6. Location of coal processing waste dams and embankments under section 69-05.2-09-09, and fill areas for the disposal of initial cut and other excess spoil under section 69-05.2-09-14 and North Dakota Century Code section 38-14.1-24.
7. Buildings, utility corridors, proposed and existing haul roads, mine railways, and other support facilities.
8. Each coal storage, cleaning and loading area, and each coal waste and noncoal waste storage area. For noncoal wastes that will be disposed of in the proposed permit area, the applicant must provide a description of any wastes listed under subdivision i of subsection 2 of section 33-20-02.1-01 and any other wastes requiring a permit from the state department of health. The location of any such disposal areas must be shown on a map of the permit area.
9. Each explosive storage and handling facility.

10. Each air pollution collection and control facility.
11. Each habitat area to be used to protect and enhance fish and wildlife and related environmental values.
12. Each source of waste and each waste disposal facility relating to coal processing or pollution control.
13. Each bond area, scheduled according to the proposed sequence of operations. Include the bond or guarantee amount for each area.
14. If an applicant proposes to remine or otherwise disturb lands that were affected by coal mining activities prior to January 1, 1970:
 - a. Detailed maps and other available information that clearly depicts the boundaries of the site that was previously affected by mining activities before January 1, 1970. This includes the identification any sinkholes and other features that are the result of any past underground coal mining activities.
 - b. The applicant must identify and describe potential environmental and safety problems related to prior mining activity at the site and those that could be reasonably anticipated to occur. This identification must be based on a due diligence investigation which includes visual observations at the site, a record review of past mining at the site, and any necessary environmental sampling tailored to the current condition of the site.
 - c. With regard to potential environmental and safety problems referred to in subdivision b, a description of the mitigative measures that will be taken to ensure that the applicable reclamation requirements can be met.

Maps and plans required under subsections 5, 6, and 12 must be prepared by, or under the direction of, and certified by a qualified registered professional engineer, a qualified registered land surveyor, or qualified professional geologist with assistance from experts in related fields. However, maps, plans, and cross sections submitted according to section 69-05.2-09-09 may only be prepared by, or under the direction of, and certified by a qualified registered professional engineer or qualified registered land surveyor.

History: Effective August 1, 1980; amended effective June 1, 1983; June 1, 1986; May 1, 1990; June 1, 1997: _____.

General Authority: NDCC 38-14.1-03

Law Implemented: NDCC 38-14.1-14

69-05.2-22-07. Performance standards - Revegetation - Standards for success.

1. Success of revegetation must be measured by using statistically valid techniques approved by the commission. Comparison of ground cover and productivity may be made on the basis of reference areas, through the use of standards in technical guides published by the United States department of agriculture, or through the use of other approved standards. If reference areas are used, the management of the reference area during the responsibility period required in subsection 2 must be comparable to that required for the approved postmining land use of the permit area. If standards are used, they must be approved by the commission and the office of surface mining reclamation and enforcement. Approved standards are contained in the commission's Standards for Evaluation of Revegetation Success and Recommended Procedures for Pre- and Postmining Vegetation Assessments.
2. The period of responsibility under the performance bond requirements of section 69-05.2-12-09 will begin following augmented seeding, planting, fertilization, irrigation, or other work, except for cropland and prime farmland where the period of responsibility begins at the date of initial planting of the crop being grown or a precropland mixture of grasses and legumes, and must continue for not less than ten years. However, for eligible lands that are remined, the revegetation responsibility period must continue for not less than five years.
3. Vegetation establishment, for the purpose of the third stage bond release provided for in subdivision c of subsection 7 of North Dakota Century Code section 38-14.1-17, will be determined for each postmining land use according to the following procedures:
 - a. For native grassland, tame pastureland, and fish and wildlife habitat where the vegetation type is grassland, ground cover on the permit area must be equal to or greater than that of the approved reference area or standard with ninety percent statistical confidence. All species used in determining ground cover must be perennial species not detrimental to the approved postmining land use.
 - b. For cropland, vegetation will be considered established after the successful seeding of the crop being grown or a precropland mixture of grasses and legumes.
 - c. For prime farmland, annual average crop production from the permit area must be equal to or greater than that of the approved

reference area or standard with ninety percent statistical confidence for a minimum of three crop years.

- d. For woodland, shelterbelts, and fish and wildlife habitat where the vegetation type is woodland, the number of trees and shrubs must be equal to or greater than the approved standard. Understory growth must be controlled. Erosion must be adequately controlled by mulch or site characteristics.
 - e. For fish and wildlife habitat where the vegetation type is wetland, the basin must exhibit the capacity to hold water and support wetland vegetation. Ground cover of the contiguous areas must be adequate to control erosion.
4. The success of revegetation on the permit area at the time of final bond release must be determined for each postmining land use according to the following:
- a. For native grassland, the following must be achieved for any two years after year six of the responsibility period:
 - (1) Ground cover and productivity of the permit area must be equal to or greater than that of the approved reference area or standard with ninety percent statistical confidence; and
 - (2) Diversity, seasonality, and permanence of the vegetation of the permit area must equal or exceed the approved standard.
 - b. For tame pastureland, ground cover and productivity of the permit area must be equal to or greater than that of the approved standard with ninety percent statistical confidence for any two years after year six of the responsibility period.
 - c. For cropland, crop production from the permit area must be equal to or greater than that of the approved reference area or standard with ninety percent statistical confidence for any two years after year six of the responsibility period.
 - d. For prime farmlands, a showing that the requirements for the restoration of productivity as specified in subdivision c of subsection 3 have been met and that the ten-year period of responsibility has elapsed.

- e. For woodlands and fish and wildlife habitat where the vegetation type is woodland, the following must be achieved during the growing season of the last year of the responsibility period:
 - (1) The number of woody plants established on the permit area must be equal to or greater than the number of live woody plants of the same life form of the approved standard with ninety percent statistical confidence. Trees, shrubs, half-shrubs, root crowns or root sprouts used in determining success of stocking must meet the following criteria:
 - (a) Be healthy;
 - (b) Be in place for at least two growing seasons; and
 - (c) If any replanting of woody plants took place during the responsibility period, the total number planted during the last six years of that period must be less than twenty percent of the total number of woody plants required. Any replanting must be by means of transplants to allow for adequate accounting of plant stocking; and
 - (d) Volunteer trees and shrubs of approved species will be considered at least two years of age and can be counted toward meeting success standards; however, volunteer trees must be at least thirty inches (76 centimeters) in height to be included in the count. Suckers on shrubby vegetation can be counted as volunteer plants when it is evident the shrub community is vigorous and expanding;
 - (2) The ground cover must be equal to or greater than ninety percent of the ground cover of the approved standard with ninety percent statistical confidence and must be adequate to control erosion; and
 - (3) Species diversity, seasonal variety, and regenerative capacity of the vegetation on the permit area must be evaluated on the basis of species stocked and expected survival and reproduction rates.
- f. For shelterbelts, the following must be achieved during the growing season of the last year of the responsibility period:

- (1) Trees, shrubs, half-shrubs, root crowns, or root sprouts used in determining success of stocking must meet the following criteria:
 - (a) Be healthy;
 - (b) Be in place for at least two growing seasons; and
 - (c) If any replanting of woody plants took place during the responsibility period, the total number planted during the last six years of that period must be less than twenty percent of the total number of woody plants required. Any replanting must be by means of transplants to allow for adequate accounting of plant stocking; and
 - (d) Volunteer trees and shrubs of approved species will be considered at least two years of age and can be counted toward meeting success standards; however, volunteer trees must be at least thirty inches (76 centimeters) in height to be included in the count. Suckers on shrubby vegetation can be counted as volunteer plants when it is evident the shrub community is vigorous and expanding;
 - (2) Shelterbelt density and vigor must be equal to or greater than that of the approved standards; and
 - (3) Erosion must be adequately controlled.
- g. For fish and wildlife habitat, where the vegetation type is wetland, vegetation zones and dominant species must be equal to those of the approved standard during the growing season of the last year of the responsibility period. In addition, wetland permanence and water quality must meet approved standards.
- h. For fish and wildlife habitat, where the vegetation type is grassland, the following must be achieved during the growing season of the last year of the responsibility period:
- (1) Ground cover must be equal to or greater than that of the approved standard with ninety percent statistical confidence and must be adequate to control erosion.
 - (2) Species diversity, seasonal variety, and regenerative capacity of the vegetation must meet or exceed the approved standard.

- i. For previously mined areas that were not reclaimed to the requirements of this chapter, any reclamation requirements in effect when the areas were mined must be met. In addition, the ground cover must not be less than can be supported by the best available plant growth material in the reaffected area, nor less than the ground cover existing before redisturbance. Adequate measures must be in place to control erosion as approved by the commission. If lands affected by coal mining activities prior to January 1, 1970 are remined or otherwise redisturbed, the applicable standard must be met for the last two consecutive years of the minimum five year responsibility period that applies to remined lands. However, if the postmining land use for the remined area is woodlands, shelterbelts or fish and wildlife habitat, the applicable standard must be met for just the last year of the responsibility period.
 - j. For areas to be developed for water, residential, or industrial and commercial uses within two years after the completion of grading or soil replacement, the ground cover on these areas must not be less than required to control erosion.
 - k. For areas to be developed for recreation, woody plants must meet or exceed the stocking and plant establishment standards for woodlands or shelterbelts found in paragraph 1 of subdivision e or in subdivision f as applicable. In addition, ground cover must not be less than required to achieve the approved postmining land use.
 - l. If a reclaimed tract contains a mixture of prime and nonprime farmlands, the commission may approve a single yield standard for the entire tract based on the soil types that occurred on the prime and nonprime areas prior to mining. The operator must provide a detailed description and comparison of the soil mapping units, acreages, and yield calculations in the reclamation plan as required by subsection 8 of section 69-05.2-09-15. When a single yield standard is approved, the operator must demonstrate that the standard has been achieved for any three years starting no sooner than the sixth year of the responsibility period. If this option is approved, the operator must also meet the applicable requirements of section 69-05.2-26-05 for the entire tract.
5. Throughout the liability period the permittee must:
- a. Maintain any necessary fences and use proper management practices; and

- b. Conduct periodic measurements of vegetation, soils, and water prescribed or approved by the commission.

History: Effective August 1, 1980; amended effective June 1, 1983; May 1, 1990; May 1, 1992; January 1, 1993; June 1, 1997; May 1, 1999; May 1, 2001; March 1, 2004; April 1, 2007;_____.

General Authority: NDCC 38-14.1-03

Law Implemented: NDCC 38-14.1-24

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Public Service Commission
2010 Weights and Measures Rules
Rulemaking**

Case No. WM-10-63

ARTICLE 69-10

TESTING AND SAFETY DIVISION

Chapter

69-10-01 Weights and Measures - General

69-10-02 Scales

69-10-03 Standards

69-10-04 Service Registration

69-10-05 Oil and Gas Metering Systems [Repealed]

**CHAPTER 69-10-03
STANDARDS**

Section	
69-10-03-01	National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook No. 44
69-10-03-01.1	National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook No. 44 - NTEP - Exceptions
69-10-03-01.2	National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook No. 105-1 - Specifications and Tolerances for Reference Standards and Field Standard Weights and Measures - Specifications and Tolerances for Class F Field Standard Weights
69-10-03-01.3	National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook No. 105-3 - Specifications and Tolerances for Reference Standards and Field Standard Weights and Measures - Specifications and Tolerances for Graduated Neck-Type Volumetric Field Standards
69-10-03-01.4	National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook No. 105-4 - Specifications and Tolerances for Reference Standards and Field Standard Weights and Measures - Specifications and Tolerances for Liquefied Petroleum Gas and Anhydrous Ammonia Liquid Volumetric Provers
69-10-03-02	Adequate Standards
69-10-03-03	Master Test Weights and Prover Tanks [Repealed]
69-10-03-04	Enforcement [Repealed]
69-10-03-05	Weight Carts [Repealed]
69-10-03-06	Metrology Service [Repealed]
69-10-03-07	Delivery of Standards for Certification [Repealed]
69-10-03-08	Rejection of Standards

69-10-03-02. Adequate standards. A standard used to certify any commercial weighing and measuring device must be annually certified as traceable by a NIST-recognized metrology laboratory. The ~~state-metrologist~~ commission may extend the twelve-month recertification interval up to fifteen months.

A current legible copy of the certificate of traceability must be maintained with the commission.

Annual recertification is subject to the following exceptions and conditions:

1. The standards integral to and used for recertification of a commercial automatic bulk-weighing system must be certified traceable by a NIST-recognized laboratory at least once every five years.
2. The volumetric provers used to certify loading-rack meters must be certified traceable by a NIST-recognized laboratory at least once every three years.
3. Unless otherwise approved by the commission, the operator of a coal belt conveyor scale jurisdictional to the commission must conduct a material load test at least once every two years provided that electronic or other simulated load testing is done at least once every three months.
4. A master meter may not be used as a standard to certify commercial LPG devices.
5. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, the commission may require recertification of any standard if upon inspection the physical condition of a standard indicates a need for recertification.

History: Amended effective April 1, 1992; September 1, 1994; February 1, 1996; July 1, 1997; July 1, 2008; _____.

General Authority: NDCC 64-02-03

Law Implemented: NDCC 64-02-02, 64-02-13

~~69-10-03-05. Weight carts. Effective January 1, 2002, weight carts not already in service in North Dakota and seeking metrology certification must meet the following design specifications: wheelbase must not exceed sixty inches [152.4 centimeters]; motors must be electric or powered by gel core batteries, gross weight must not exceed five thousand pounds [2267.95 kilograms], tires must be of solid rubber with smooth tread, and sealing cavities must be capable of containing twenty pounds [9.072 kilograms] of lead adjustment.~~

~~History: Effective January 1, 2002.~~

~~General Authority: NDCC 64-02-03~~

~~Law Implemented: NDCC 64-02-02~~

~~Repealed effective _____.~~

~~69-10-03-06. Metrology service. Metrology service at the commission laboratory will only be provided as set out in this section:~~

- ~~1. All metrology service requests must be by appointment only and will be according to the following:
 - ~~a. Testing and safety division metrology;~~
 - ~~b. State-registered service company metrology;~~
 - ~~c. North Dakota law enforcement metrology;~~
 - ~~d. Industrial customer metrology; and~~
 - ~~e. All other metrology.~~~~
- ~~2. The director shall send out annual appointment notifications by mail to all state-registered service companies at least thirty days prior to each company's appointment date.~~
- ~~3. If a party with a scheduled metrology appointment needs to cancel that appointment, the party shall notify the commission of the need to cancel at least seven days in advance of the appointment. Appointments cancelled within less than seven days advance notice will lose scheduling priorities. The party canceling a metrology appointment may request a new appointment date at that time.~~
- ~~4. A metrology appointment must be scheduled at least thirty days in advance.~~
- ~~5. A metrology request not previously scheduled may only be serviced as time becomes available.~~
- ~~6. A metrology request for service beyond the scope of the laboratory's recognition level will be referred to an appropriate NIST-recognized metrology laboratory.~~

~~**History:** Effective May 1, 2005; amended effective July 1, 2008.~~

~~**General Authority:** NDCC 64-02-03~~

~~**Law Implemented:** NDCC 64-02-02~~

~~Repealed effective _____.~~

~~69-10-03-07. Delivery of standards for certification. Standards delivered to the metrology laboratory for testing and certification must be submitted undamaged and serviceable and must comply with the following:~~

- ~~1. Vehicle scale test carts must be cleaned and painted with all fluid levels topped off to their calibrated reference levels.~~
- ~~2. Cast iron weights must be cleaned and painted following the requirements in NIST Handbook No. 105-1, section 2, as adopted by reference in section 69-10-03-01.2.~~
- ~~3. Provers and test measures, including sight glasses, must be cleaned inside and out and contain no hydrocarbon residue or other pollutants.~~
- ~~4. Provers must have a simple, sturdy, and adequate leveling means on the legs allowing for adequate adjustments.~~
- ~~5. Provers must have two level indicators mounted on the body of the prover at right angles to each other for leveling purposes.~~
- ~~6. Mild steel provers must be periodically painted as determined by the metrologist, and as recorded in the remarks section on the previous year's calibration report.~~
- ~~7. Mild steel test measures, including sight glasses, must be cleaned inside and out and contain no hydrocarbon residue or other pollutants.~~
- ~~8. Class F weights must meet the applicable material and design requirements of NIST Handbook No. 105-1, as adopted by reference in section 69-10-03-01.2.~~
- ~~9. Fabricated weights, brass weights, and cast iron weights equal to or less than ten pounds [4.54 kilograms] may not be used.~~
- ~~10. Laminated weights must not be adjusted and must be removed from service when the weights fail to maintain the applicable tolerance.~~
- ~~11. Volume standards placed in service after January 1, 1998, must meet the requirements of NIST Handbook No. 105-3 or 105-4, as adopted by reference in sections 69-10-03-01.3 and 69-10-03-01.4.~~
- ~~12. A volume standard placed in service before January 1, 1998, that has maintained annual certification need not meet the requirements of NIST Handbook No. 105-3 or 105-4, as adopted by reference in sections 69-10-~~

- ~~03-01.3 and 69-10-03-01.4, unless a standard has been removed from service for a period greater than twelve months.~~
- ~~13. Special seals or special tools required for the test or calibration, which is of a unique nature to a particular standard, must be supplied by the standard owner prior to the beginning of the metrology process.~~
 - ~~14. If weights greater than one hundred pounds [45.36 kilograms] or provers with capacities greater than fifty gallons [189.27 liters] are shipped to the metrology laboratory, the weights or provers must be shipped on an open flatbed truck or trailer.~~
 - ~~15. Standards that are not in compliance with any of the above requirements will not be accepted for testing and certification.~~
 - ~~16. A standard that is not tested and certified may not be used to test and certify a commercial device unless a variance permit is obtained from the commission, or unless the standards is recertified.~~

~~**History:** Effective May 1, 2005; amended effective July 1, 2008.~~

~~**General Authority:** NDCC 64-02-03~~

~~**Law Implemented:** NDCC 64-02-02~~

~~Repealed effective _____.~~

69-10-03-08. Rejection of standards. ~~Rejected standards~~ Standards rejected by a NIST recognized laboratory must be removed from service as follows:

1. A standard that has been rejected must be conspicuously marked by sealing, tagging, or painting as appropriate to that standard.
2. A rejected standard may not be used to test and certify a commercial weighing and measuring device. The use of a rejected standard may result in commission enforcement action.
3. A standard not meeting appropriate design criteria may be allowed to remain in service for a limited time, provided a variance permit is obtained from the commission prior to certification or recertification.

History: Effective May 1, 2005; amended effective July 1, 2008; _____.

General Authority: NDCC 64-02-03

Law Implemented: NDCC 64-02-02

**CHAPTER 69-10-04
SERVICE REGULATIONS**

Section	
69-10-04-01	Registration of Service Persons
69-10-04-01.1	Registration of Service Companies
69-10-04-02	Application for Registration and Permitting of a Service Person
69-10-04-02.1	Self-Certification
69-10-04-02.2	Application for Registration of a Service Company
69-10-04-02.3	Issuing a Placing in Service Permit
69-10-04-03	Revocation of Registration
69-10-04-04	Reports
69-10-04-05	Standardized Report Forms
69-10-04-06	Quality Control - Witnessing
69-10-04-06.1	Quality Control – Failures [<u>Repealed</u>]
69-10-04-06.2	Procedures for the Quality Control of Registered Service Persons
<u>69-10-04-06.3</u>	<u>Quality Control – Failures</u>
69-10-04-07	Adequate Field Standard Requirements - Exception
69-10-04-08	Devices Taken out of Service [<u>Repealed</u>]

69-10-04-02. Application for registration and permitting of a service person. Annual application for registration as a registered service person must be submitted to the commission under the following requirements:

1. A first-time applicant shall:
 - a. Provide a written history of education and work experience to show that the applicant is fully qualified to repair, test, and certify a commercial weighing or measuring device; and
 - b. Complete written tests that must be taken ~~in Bismarck, North Dakota,~~ at a location and time designated by the commission, and must be administered as follows:
 - (1) The written test will be open book, with seventy-five percent as the minimum passing score. The test material will cover the applicable sections of the adopted 1999 edition of NIST Handbook No. 44, North Dakota Century Code title 64, and North Dakota Administrative Code article 69-10; and
 - (2) In the case of a test failure, an applicant may retake the tests after a review period of ten working days.
2. Each applicant registered by the commission shall utilize adequate standards during the testing and certification of a commercial device.
3. An applicant who is applying for renewal of an existing registration shall complete and submit the application at least fifteen days prior to the expiration date of the applicant's existing registration. Each applicant who has renewed an existing registration shall utilize adequate standards during the testing and certification of a commercial device.

History: Amended effective April 1, 1992; September 1, 1994; July 1, 1997; January 1, 2002; May 1, 2005; July 1, 2008; _____.

General Authority: NDCC 64-02-03

Law Implemented: NDCC 64-02-02

69-10-04-02.3. Issuing a placing in service permit. Upon acceptance and approval of an application, the commission shall issue a placing in service permit to the applicant. All permits issued under this section remain the property of the commission and must be surrendered upon demand. Permits issued will be either probationary or permanent as defined in this section.

1. Probationary permits.

- a. An applicant with less than three months' experience repairing and placing devices into service will receive a probationary permit;
- b. The duration of a probationary permit will be at the discretion of the ~~testing and safety division director~~ commission but will not exceed six months from the date of testing; and
- c. A probationary permitholder shall be accompanied by, and have each placing in service test report cosigned by, a permanent permitholder from the same service company in order for the test report or the placing in service to be considered valid.

2. Permanent permits.

- a. An applicant with more than three months' experience repairing and placing devices into service will receive a permanent permit;
- b. An applicant who has been previously tested and issued a permanent permit by the commission within the last five years, but has allowed it to expire, will receive a permanent permit; or
- c. A probationary permitholder who has completed probationary time assigned without receiving any quality control failures will receive a permanent permit.

History: Effective May 1, 2005; _____.

General Authority: NDCC 64-02-03

Law Implemented: NDCC 64-02-02

69-10-04-06. Quality control – Witnessing Evaluation. The commission may evaluate the work performed by a registered service person to ensure that the person is performing proper inspections and tests. The evaluation method may be by direct observation of a registered service person placing a commercial device into service or by reinspection of a device previously placed into service by a registered service person. The commission shall may consider the following criteria during the evaluation:

1. The results of a random sampling of at least one inspection and test per year, or more if so ordered by the commission, of the devices certified by a registered service person;
2. Complaints filed against a registered service person, and whether those complaints are valid; and
3. Other factors deemed relevant by the commission.

~~The quality control evaluation must be completed within forty-five days of the date the work is completed by the registered service person and at no charge to the owner of the device.~~

History: Effective September 1, 1994; amended effective February 1, 1996; October 1, 1999; July 1, 2008; _____.

General Authority: NDCC 64-02-03

Law Implemented: NDCC 64-02-02, 64-02-13

~~69-10-04-06.1. Quality control - Failures. Quality failures must include the outcome of any actual quality control inspections and tests, and any violations of title 64 of the North Dakota Century Code, title 69 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, and any applicable sections of the NIST Handbook No. 44, as adopted by reference in section 69-10-03-01. If a registered service person fails three consecutive quality control inspections within a twelve-month period, the commission may:~~

- ~~1. Issue either a verbal warning or a formal warning letter requiring remedial action within thirty days from the date of the warning;~~
- ~~2. Schedule a conference with the division director or chief inspector, the registered service person, and that person's supervisor;~~
- ~~3. Require that the registered service person retake the written tests required for licensing under section 69-10-04-02;~~
- ~~4. Reduce the registered service person's permit status to probationary for up to six months; and~~
- ~~5. Suspend the registered service person's permit and assess a civil penalty.~~

~~The results of any quality control failures and associated enforcement actions may be sent to the individual permitholder's company or to the owner or operator of the affected device.~~

~~Any quality control failures and associated enforcement actions must be kept on file as part of the overall quality control profile of the registered service person for a twelve-month period from the date of the failure.~~

~~**History:** Effective October 1, 1999; amended effective May 1, 2005.~~

~~**General Authority:** NDCC 64-02-03~~

~~**Law Implemented:** NDCC 64-02-02, 64-02-13~~

~~Repealed effective _____.~~

69-10-04-06.2. Procedures for the ~~quality control of evaluating work of~~ registered service persons. A quality control inspection to evaluate the work of a registered service person will be conducted as set forth in this section:

1. ~~Quality control inspection selection~~ Selection criteria ~~is as follows~~ includes:
 - a. ~~Established by permitholder number;~~
 - b. ~~Set at one percent, or one placing in services, of average annual production;~~
 - ea. ~~Location of the device versus~~ in relation to location of the appropriate state inspector is a controlling factor;
 - b. Each registered service person whose annual device testing total is at least 100 will be evaluated on one of every 100 devices tested;
 - dc. ~~Each permitholder~~ registered service person whose annual production device testing total is less than twenty one hundred will be ~~placed into a special pool of which ten percent will have a quality control performed each year~~ assigned a trigger quality control level related to the number of total devices tested the previous year.;
 - ed. ~~Average annual production must be based upon the previous inspection year totals~~ Receipt of a complaint.
2. A permanent permitholder registered service person who receives multiple quality control inspections within a twelve-month period because of the holder ~~has logged a large number of devices tested placing in services, and; has received not failed a "pass" on the first scheduled quality control inspection for that time period, will receive an "honorary pass" on the second scheduled quality control inspection. If the number of placing services devices tested requires a third quality control inspection for which the holder registered service person receives a "pass" does not fail, the fourth scheduled quality control inspection will again be an "honorary pass".~~
3. ~~The quality control inspection may be based upon the applicable tolerance, acceptance or maintenance tolerance, or design requirements that are applicable to the device.~~
4. ~~The quality control inspection must be completed within forty-five days from the date of the permitholder's test report.~~

53. A specific quality control inspection ends when the tested device either fails a portion of the inspection or it passes the inspection.
64. If ~~When~~ a device fails a quality control inspection, the ~~failed quality control failure is~~ will be documented for ~~that permitholder~~, the device is will be rejected, and a follow-up quality control inspection ~~must~~ will be scheduled conducted as soon as practicable ~~on the next device placed into service by the permitholder responsible for the previous quality control failure.~~
7. ~~At the discretion of the division director, weights and measures inspectors may conduct quality control inspections of self-certifying permitholders either by performing a test on that holder's device or by witnessing the testing of a device by the self-certified permitholder.~~

History: Effective May 1, 2005; _____.

General Authority: NDCC 64-02-03

Law Implemented: NDCC 64-02-02, 64-02-13

69-10-04-06.3. Quality control - Failures. A quality control evaluation test report that discloses a failure must include any alleged violations of Chapter 64-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, Chapter 69-10-03 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, and any applicable sections of the NIST Handbook No. 44, as adopted by reference in section 69-10-03-01. If a registered service person fails three consecutive quality control inspections within a twelve month period, the commission may:

1. Issue a written warning requiring remedial action within thirty days from the date of the warning;
2. Schedule a conference with the registered service person and that person's employer;
3. Require that the registered service person retake the written tests required for licensing under section 69-10-04-02;
4. Reduce the registered service person's permit status to probationary for up to six months;
5. Suspend the registered service person's permit and assess a civil penalty.

The results of any quality control failures and associated enforcement actions may be sent to the registered service person's employer and to the owner or operator of the affected device.

A quality control evaluation report and a record of any associated enforcement action is filed as part of the overall quality control profile of the affected registered service person and must remain part of that profile for twelve months from the date of the failure.

History: Effective _____.

General Authority: NDCC 64-02-03

Law Implemented: NDCC 64-02-02, 64-02-13

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Public Service Commission
Public Utilities - Decommissioning
Rulemaking**

Case No. PU-10-159

69-09-09-06. Decommissioning plan. Prior to commencement of operation of a commercial wind energy conversion facility or wind turbine, the facility or turbine owner or operator shall file for commission review the estimated decommissioning cost per turbine, in current dollars at the time of filing, for the proposed facility or turbine and a comprehensive decommissioning plan that describes any expected effect on present and future natural resource development and how the facility or turbine owner or operator plans to pay for decommissioning the facility or turbine as required by section 69-09-10-05 at the appropriate time. The commission may at any time require the owner or operator of a commercial wind energy conversion facility or wind turbine to file a report with the commission describing how the facility or turbine owner or operator is fulfilling this obligation.

History: Effective October 1, 2008; _____.

General Authority: NDCC 28-32-02, 49-02-27

Law Implemented: NDCC 49-02-27