



Public Service Commission

State of North Dakota

COMMISSIONERS

Kevin Cramer
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Executive Secretary
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600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept 408
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480
Web: www.nd.gov/psc
E-mail: ndpsc@nd.gov
Phone 701-328-2400
Toll Free 1-877-245-6685
Fax 701-328-2410
TDD 800-366-6888 or 711

January 4, 2011

Mr. D. Randall Crooke
Environmental Manager
Falkirk Mining Company
P.O. Box 1087
Underwood, ND 58576-1087

Dear Mr. Crooke:

The Reclamation Division has conducted a completeness review of Revision No. 27 and Renewal 5 to Surface Coal Mining Permit NAFK-8405 at the Falkirk Mine. The following items must be adequately addressed before the applications can be deemed complete:

Newspaper Notice

1. Please add to the end of the second paragraph of the newspaper notice in Section 1.2.4 by stating that *“and the revision identifies the coal removal subarea that will be mined during the next 5-year permit term”*. (BEB)

Section 1.0 – Introductory Information

2. Changes were made to the Reclamation Procedures Narrative in Section 4.2.1; however, updates to the permit for this section were not described in any of the introductory information sections. Please address the appropriate section(s) of the permit to indicate that changes or updates were made to Section 4.2.1. (BEB)
3. Please specifically state in the Revision Summary Pages (Introductions) of Section 1.1.2 that the revision identifies the coal removal subarea that will be mined during the next 5-year permit term. (BEB)

Section 2.0 – Environmental Resources Information

4. Please provide any necessary or required updates to the stand-alone Underwood Groundwater Hydrology section at this time. (BEB)

Section 3.0 – Operation Plans

5. Several watersheds are not labeled on the Water Management Map, Section 3.6.01a. In order for identification and comparison of watersheds in the pre- and post-mining setting, please label these watersheds similar to what was previously done with the areas south of Highway 200. (MSK)

Section 4.0 – Reclamation Plans

6. The link to Section 4.2.3, Grading Sequence Map, is broken. Please repair the link. (MSK)

In an effort to expedite revision application review, staff provided Falkirk with a list of permit maps by e-mail on December 30, 2010, for which the AutoCAD files were requested. Please provide the requested AutoCAD files that are applicable to this revision application.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,



James R. Deutsch
Director
Reclamation Division