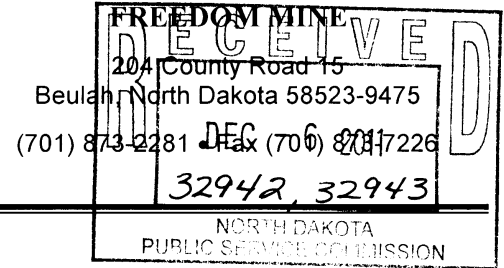


**THE COTEAU**  
**PROPERTIES COMPANY**  
A SUBSIDIARY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COAL CORPORATION



December 5, 2011

Mr. James R. Deutsch  
Director Reclamation Division  
Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Department 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

Enclosed are affidavits of publication from the Beulah Beacon and Hazen Star. These affidavits are for final bond release applications #4 to Permit NACT-9101, and #1 to Permit NACT-9501.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

THE COTEAU PROPERTIES COMPANY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa D. Ryan".

Lisa D. Ryan CPS/CAP  
Office Administrator

LDR  
Enc.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA )  
 )  
 ) SS  
 )  
COUNTY OF MERCER )

I SHELLEY CHASE, being first duly sworn, on my own oath, say, that I am the bookkeeper of the BEULAH BEACON, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in the city of BEULAH, that the advertisement headed:

COTEAU PROPERTIES BH-BOND RELEASE FBR 4 TO 9101/LEGAL  
-----

a printed copy of which is here annexed, was published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper during the period and time of publication, and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement,

for 4 consecutive week 11/03/11 to wit:

37.5	211.88	10/13/2011
37.5	211.88	10/20/2011
37.5	211.88	10/27/2011
37.5	211.88	11/03/2011

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Notary Fee \$1.00 Total Cost of Legal \$848.52

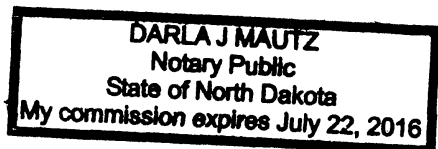
Shelley Chase  
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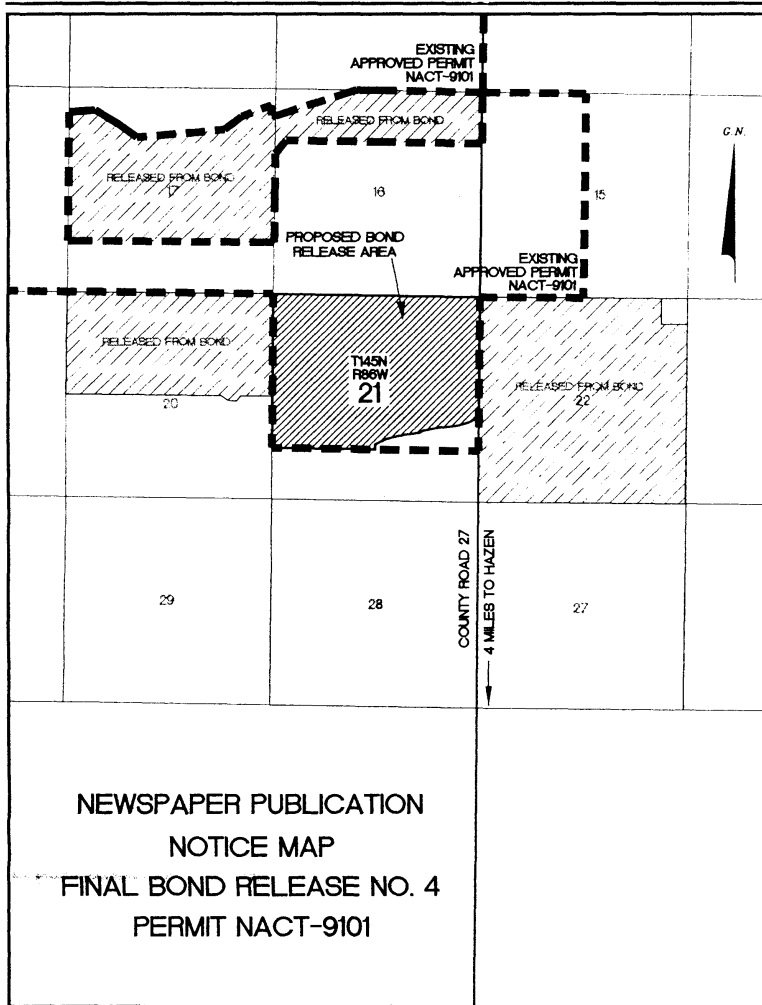
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November A.D. 2011.

(Seal) Darla J Mautz  
-----

Notary Public, State of North Dakota

My Commission Expires





**NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION  
NOTICE MAP  
FINAL BOND RELEASE NO. 4  
PERMIT NACT-9101**

**NOTICE OF FILING FOR FINAL RELEASE OF RECLAMATION BOND**

The Coteau Properties Company, as applicant, has filed an application for final bond release on 448.6 acres of land in Mercer County located in Section 21, T145N, R86W, as shown on the map. Of this total, 173.4 acres have been affected by mining. This land is included in Permit NACT-9101, approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission on June 30, 1992. This permit area is bonded in consolidation with adjacent mining permits for an amount totaling \$109 million. Upon approval of this bond release application, The Coteau Properties Company will be released from reclamation liability for all stages (backfilling and grading, soil respreading, vegetation establishment, and final release), but the bond amount will not be reduced due to continued mining and reclamation operations within this permit.

Following permit approval, initial mining disturbance commenced with soil stripping for coal removal that same year. Most soil stripping was completed in the disturbed portion of Section 21 by the end of 1992, with the remainder completed in 1993. Some of the orphan spoils were redistributed to allow for coal removal, and to provide access to soil stockpiles located in the remainder of the section. Coal removal began in 1993, and was completed by 1995. Spoil grading was conducted behind coal loading operations from 1994 to 1997. Soil respread and seeding followed from 1994 to 1998 for the mined areas. Soil stockpiles were removed, and the areas reseeded in 2000.

Land Use	Acres
Cropland	158.0
Native Grassland	98.5
Previously Mined	186.7
Roadway	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>448.6</b>

Written comments, objections, or requests for an informal conference or public hearing on this bond release may be submitted by any person having a valid legal interest that is or may be adversely affected by this action, to the North Dakota Public Service Commission, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 408, Bismarck, ND 58505-0480, within 30 days after the last publication of this notice. Any request for an informal conference or hearing should be in writing to the Commission, and must state specifically the issues or objections that an affected party has regarding this bond release.

The Coteau Properties Company  
204 County Road 15  
Beulah, North Dakota 58523

(10-13-11-10-20-11-10-27-11-3-11)

*Beacon*

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA )  
 )  
 ) SS  
COUNTY OF Mercer )

I SHELLEY CHASE, being first duly sworn, on my own oath, say, that I am the bookkeeper of the Hazen Star, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in the city of Hazen, that the advertisement headed:

COTEAU PROPERTIES/LISA RYAN HZ-BOND RELEASE FBR #4 TO 9101/LEGAL

a printed copy of which is here annexed, was published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper during the period and time of publication, and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement,

for 4 consecutive week 11/03/2011 to wit:

Column Inches 37.5	\$5.65	\$211.88	10/13/2011
Column Inches 37.5	\$5.65	\$211.88	10/20/2011
Column Inches 37.5	\$5.65	\$211.88	11/03/2011

Notary Fee \$1.00 Total Cost of Legal \$636.64

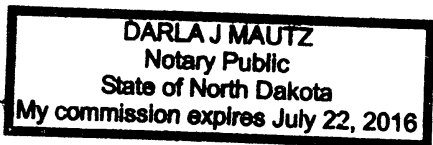
Shelley Chase

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of November A.D. 2011.

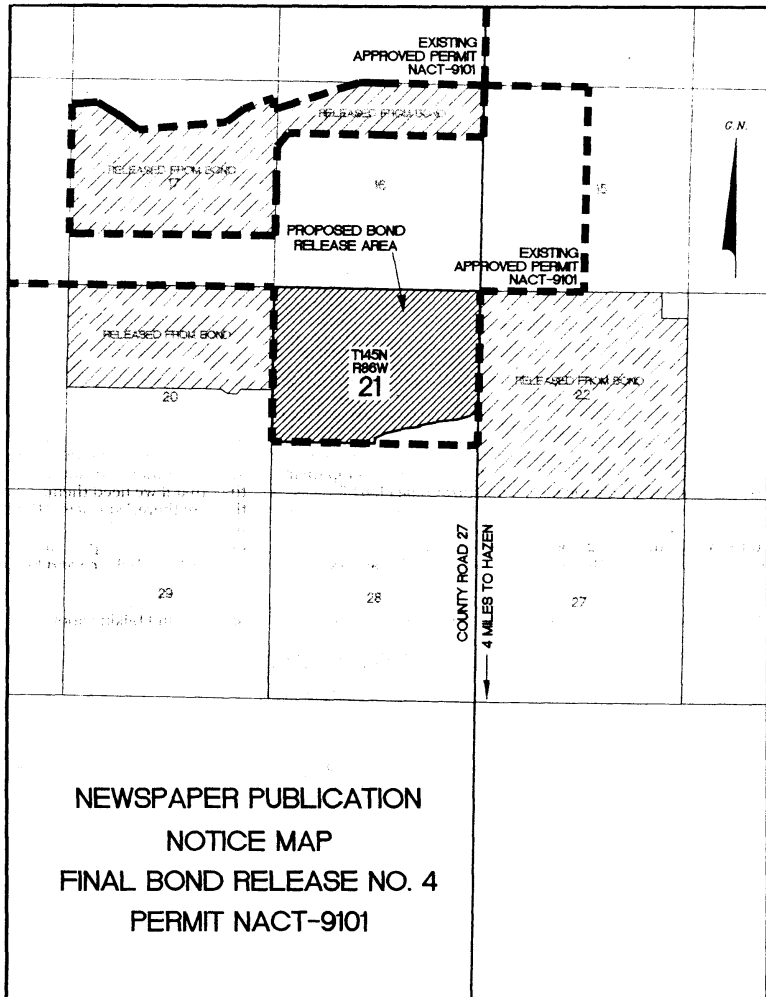
(Seal) Darla J. Mautz

Notary Public, State of North Dakota

My Commission Expires



*[Faint, illegible text and stamps, possibly from a newspaper or legal office, including some numbers and dates.]*



**NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION  
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 PERMIT NACT-9101**

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The Coteau Properties Company  
 204 County Road 15  
 Beulah, North Dakota 58523

(10-13-11-10-20-11-10-27-11-11-3-11)

*Star*