



Public Service Commission

State of North Dakota

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July 10, 2012

Mr. Donn Steffen
Environmental Manager
Coteau Properties Company
204 County Rd. 15
Beulah, ND 58523

Dear Mr. Steffen:

The Reclamation Division has reviewed Coteau's response to our March 13, 2012 technical review letter of final bond release Application No. 4 to Surface Mining Permit NACT-9101. The following items must be adequately addressed prior to this office recommending Commission action.

Cropland

1. Follow-up to Item No. 8: The unadjusted yield standard calculations in Attachment VIIIId, Cropland Productivity Standards, have been updated so that the acreage equals 65.5 acres rather than 72.9 acres. However, it appears that an incorrect yield value was used for the undisturbed non-prime acreage in Step 1 on pages 1, 2 and 4. A value of 30.1 bushels per acre was used for this 15.02 acres but the table on page 6 of Attachment VIIIId indicates the weighted unadjusted yield is 29.0 bu/acre. Please review and correct as necessary. (GAW)
2. Please revise to clarify which "Vegetative Productivity Standards for Hayland" on pages 10 and 11 of Attachment VIIIId is for "Prime Farmland" and which is for "Non-Prime farmland". (RLK)

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

James R. Deutsch
Director
Reclamation Division

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