

AML EMERGENCY INVESTIGATION

Type of Problem: Subsidence
Reported by: Gary Suko, Landowner
Mike Eslinger, Landowner
Address: Beulah, ND 58523
Telephone: 701-873-2248 (Suko), 701-873-5695 (Eslinger)
Date Complaint Received: April 19 and 25, 2011
Person Notified of Complaint: Bill Dodd and Jim Deutsch
Address of Complaint: Public highways and residential areas near Beulah
City: Beulah
County: Mercer
State: North Dakota

SITE INVESTIGATION

Dates/Times: April 20, 2011, 1:30-3:00 PM (Suko Complaint)
April 25, 2011, (Eslinger Complaint)
Name of State Investigators: Bill Dodd (April 20), Tim Oswald (April 25)
OSM Representative(s) Present: None
Others Present: Gary Suko, Ed Schaper (Mercer Co. Hwy Dept)
Mike Eslinger, Lance Schmidt (Midco Comm.)

Name of others contacted (Local, State, Federal, Insurance Agencies, Utilities, etc.):
John Sieving - OSM, was notified of the Suko complaint by e-mail April 20, 2011.

LOCATION OF SITES

Directions of locations (Describe Route):

Sinkhole 1: On residential property owned by Gary Suko, approximately 800' northeast of the junction of ND Highways 200 and 49, in Section 12, T144N, R88W.

Sinkhole 2: On the east ditch of Mercer County Highway 21, approximately 850' north of the junction of ND Highways 200 and 49, in Section 12, T144N, R88W.

Sinkhole 3 (April 25): On the south ditch of ND Highway 200, approximately 1.3 miles east of the junction of ND Highways 200 and 49, in Section 18, T144N, R87W.

USGS Quadrangle Name: Beulah, N. Dakota
Coordinates:

MINE INFORMATION

Mined by: Knife River Coal Mining Company
Duration of Mining: 1923-1953
Type of Mining: underground
Seam Name: unknown **Thickness of Seam:** 12-22 feet

CONTINUING RECLAMATION RESPONSIBILITY

Permitted Operation: No **Permit Number(s):** N/A
Bond Status: Returned, Forfeited, Available: N/A
Amount: N/A
Date: N/A

PRESENT OWNER(S)

Sinkhole 1

Surface Owner's Name: Gary Suko/Don Boekel
Address: Corner of Hwy 49 & 200
City: Beulah
State: North Dakota
Zip Code: 58523
Telephone: 701-873-2248

Sinkhole 2

Surface Owner's Name: Mercer County Highway Dept.
Roy Braun, Highway Superintendent
Address: 5935 County 20
City: Beulah
State: North Dakota
Zip Code: 58523
Telephone: 701-873-5586

Sinkhole 3

Surface Owner's Name: North Dakota DOT, Dickinson District
Larry Gangl, District Engineer
Address: 1700 3rd Ave W
City: Dickinson
State: North Dakota
Zip Code: 58601
Telephone: 701-227-6511

Were the Property Owners Involved in the Mining: No
If yes, explain:

Date Property Acquired by Owner: unknown
If Potential Subsidence, Do Owners Have Insurance: No
If yes,
Agency:
Agent:
Address:
Phone Number:
Mineral Owner's Name: Unknown

AFFECTED PARTIES

The sinkholes are in a residential area and near the rights-of-way of public highways and could potentially affect the homeowners and anyone using the highway or operating motorcycles or four-wheelers in the ditch.

SITE INFORMATION

Date that problem began or was first noticed: Sinkholes 1 and 2 were reported on April 19 and 20 and Sinkhole 3 was reported April 25, 2011

Is there any active mining or related activities in or around the area: NO
Several surface mines are located within 50 miles but have no effect on this site

Name of Operator(s):

Falkirk Mining Company, Coteau Properties Company, Dakota Westmoreland Corporation

Nature of problem:

Void, Shafts, Slope, Entries, etc.

Source of problem:

Underground Mine

Potentially Affecting:

Persons: Estimated Number: 10+
Housing: none
Building: none
Estimated acres affected: less than 1

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Describe the problem (Detail: size, shape; Is problem spreading, expanding; first noticed, etc.)

On April 19, 2011, Gary Suko, manager of the Hook, Line & Sinker gas station at Beulah, notified Bill Dodd of a dangerous sinkhole near his home. He said it was about 15 feet in diameter. In a follow-up phone conversation on April 20, Gary reported another dangerous sinkhole in the east ditch of Mercer County Highway 21N, approximately 300 feet north of the north approach to the Hook, Line & Sinker.

An inspection was conducted on April 20, 2011. The sinkhole in Suko's yard (Sinkhole 1) was approximately 15 feet in diameter and 6 feet deep. The sinkhole in the County Highway 21N ditch (Sinkhole 2) was approximately 10 feet in diameter and 12 feet deep.

Sinkhole 3 was reported in a phone message to Jim Deutsch on April 25 by Mike Eslinger, a local property owner. Tim Oswald inspected Sinkhole 3 on April 25. It was located on the north ditch of Highway 200 and was approximately 16 feet in diameter and 9 feet deep. A fiber-optic cable was running through the hole and a power pole had to be relocated because of the sinkhole. See map for locations of all sinkholes.

I believe these sinkholes are serious and immediate hazards to the public and meet criteria as an AML emergency.

OTHER INFORMATION

Describe any other information available and its location (i.e., maps, inspections, reports, etc.)

Mine information and maps are available for this site.

ELIGIBILITY

Declaration of eligibility from State: ND Public Service Commission

Name: Jim Deutsch, AML Director

Address: 600 E Blvd Ave., Dept. 408

City: Bismarck

State: North Dakota

Zip Code: 58505-0480

Telephone: (701)328-2251

Oral Date **Written X** Date April 26, 2011

Eligible: YES X (an eligible site must be mine related, abandoned with inadequate reclamation prior to August 3, 1977, and no continuing reclamation responsibility.)

REMARKS

Since these sinkholes are located on a residential area and highway rights-of-way and reclamation will be limited to the immediate area of the sinkhole, no environmental resources will be affected.

ADDED VALUE

It is doubtful that reclamation of this site will add significant value to the property. However, remedial action to eliminate the hazard will protect the public.

PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION:

- Remove all available topsoil from around the sinkholes
- Excavate the sinkholes with a backhoe
- Fill the excavated sinkholes with fill dirt and compact to the best extent possible
- Regrade the areas to re-establish drainage
- Respread topsoil over the areas
- Reseed the disturbed areas

ESTIMATED COST: \$3,000

Investigator: William E. Dodd **Signature:** William E. Dodd
Address: 600 E Blvd Ave., Dept. 408
City: Bismarck
State: North Dakota
Zip code: 58505-0480
Telephone: (701) 328-4101

Project Title: April 2011 Beulah Emergency
Number: to be assigned