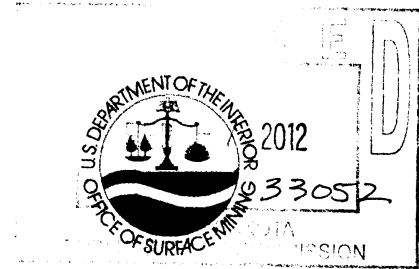




# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
Casper Field Office  
PO Box 11018  
150 East B Street, RM 1018  
Casper, WY 82602



February 3, 2012

Mr. Jim Deutsch, Director  
Reclamation Division  
North Dakota Public Service Division  
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

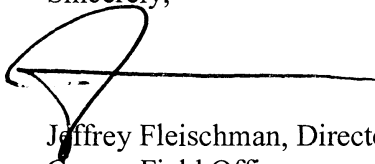
Dear Mr. Deutsch,

This letter is to acknowledge our receipt of your formal program amendment package (Amendment XXXIX) to North Dakota's approved reclamation program. These proposed changes to the North Dakota Administrative Code address letter of credit provisions in the collateral bond rule under Administrative Code Section 69-5.2-12-04. The changes involve the financial information and notices that banks issuing a letter of credit must provide to the Commission.

They will be distributed to our list of other interested parties and Federal; agencies and our office will initiate the formal review process on the material submitted by you dated February 1, 2012.

If you have any questions of if we can be of any further assistance in this matter, please feel free to contact John Sieving of this office at 307-261-6541.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Fleischman, Director  
Casper Field Office