



# 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



June 8, 2012

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

RE: Bond Release No.5, Coteau Properties Company, Freedom Mine, Permit NACT-9101

Dear Mr. Deutsch:


Casper Field Office has received and reviewed a copy of the Final Bond Release package for Coteau Properties Company's Freedom Mine, Permit NACT-9101, Application No. 5. The package requests Final bond release for approximately 1000.95 acres. This bond release application includes Federal Lands, therefore, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) concurrence is needed.

Joint PSC/OSM inspections of this area were conducted on Sept. 9, 2011 and May 16, 2012. The PSC has completed its review of the application for bond release and has documented that all required items have been addressed.

CFO has reviewed the bond release application and has found no unfulfilled requirements that would preclude the release of bond. OSM concurs with the recommendation for approval of the bond release application.

If you have any questions, please contact John Ahlbrandt (307)261-6553 or John Sieving (307)261-6541 of the Casper Field Office.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey W. Fleischman, Director  
Casper Field Office

cc: Guy Welch, ND PSC  
Mike Berg, NDPSC