



Public Service Commission

State of North Dakota

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September 22, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Steffen:

The Reclamation Division has completed an initial review of the public notice portions of final bond release application No. 1 to Permit NACT-9501. The items listed below must be addressed prior to publishing the public notice or notifying the surface owners, adjacent landowners and governmental agencies.

Attachment III – Legal Advertisement

1. The last sentence of the first paragraph states “the bond amount will not be reduced due to continued mining and reclamation operations within this permit.” While reclamation operations do continue in this permit area, mining has been completed in this permit area. Please correct this on the public and in the surface and adjacent surface ownership notification letters in Attachment VIa. It may be easiest to change it by adding “and other permit areas within the consolidated bond area at the Freedom Mine” after “within this permit.” (MDB)
2. In the map attached to the advertisement, please consider including the company or mine name in the title block, including a north arrow and increasing the font size of the Section numbers of the land surrounding the proposed bond release tract. (MDB/GAW)

Attachment IVa – Letters Sent by Coteau to Surface and Adjacent Surface Owners

3. Attachment 1, it indicates B Reiners is the adjacent surface owner in the NE¹/₄ of Section 5. However, Attachments V and VI indicate Jean J. and Debra D. Hoepfner are the adjacent owners of this same tract. Please correct the discrepancy as well as ensuring the notice is mailed to the proper land owner. (MDB)

Once the above items have been satisfactorily addressed, you will be notified to begin publication of the public notice.

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Also, the Reclamation Division will review our October 19, 2009 technical review letter for pending Revision No. 13 to Permit NACT-0401 to ensure that none of the issues identified in that review will affect the standards used in this bond release application.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Deutsch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

James R. Deutsch
Director
Reclamation Division