



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: Final Bond Release for North American Coal Company's Falkirk Mine, Permit NAFK-8705, Application No. 3.

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

Casper Field Office has received a copy of the Final Bond Release package for North American Coal Company's Falkirk Mine, Permit NAFK-8705, Application No. 3. The package requests Final bond release for 217.5 acres. This bond release application includes Federal Lands, therefore, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) concurrence is needed.

ND PSC conducted an inspection to review this area on November 29, 2011. A joint PSC/OSM inspection of this area was conducted on May 17, 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 Sieving of the Casper Field Office at (307) 261-6541.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fleischman, Director
Casper Field Office

cc: Guy Welch, ND PSC