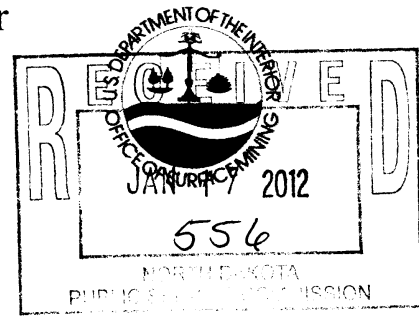




United States Department of the Interior

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



January 9, 2012

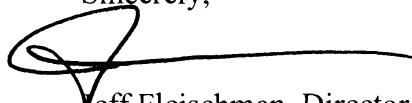
Mr. Jim Deutsch, Director
Reclamation Division
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 408
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

This letter is to acknowledge our receipt of North Dakota's 2012-2015 AML Grant Application for the grant period beginning March 1, 2012. We have completed the programmatic review of your grant application and recommend the grant be approved in the amount of \$3,921,596.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John Sieving of my staff at (307) 261-6541.

Sincerely,


Jeff Fleischman, Director
Casper Field Office