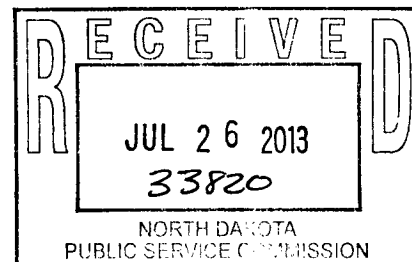


United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458



July 25, 2013

James R. Deutsch, Director
Reclamation Division
600 East Boulevard, Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

This response is in reference to your letter dated July 8, 2013, regarding BNI Coal, Ltd application for Revision No. 12 to Surface Coal Mining Permit BNCR-9401 that adds 181.54 acres to the Center Mine in Oliver County, North Dakota.

Upon review of this revision, we did not find deficiencies in the prime farmland section; therefore, NRCS will not be submitting comments. Thank you for the opportunity to review this revision and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary E. Podoll".

MARY E. PODOLL
State Conservationist

ACTING

cc:
Steve Sieler, State Soil Liaison, NRCS, Bismarck, ND