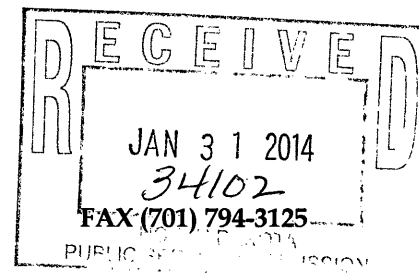


PHONE (701) 794-8734



AN ALLETE COMPANY

2360 35TH AVENUE SW CENTER, ND 58530-9499
MINING LIGNITE AT THE CENTER MINE SINCE 1970

January 30, 2014

Mr. Jim Deutsch, Director
Reclamation Division, NDPSC
Department 408
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Revision 12 to Permit BNCR-9401

Dear Mr. Deutsch,

This submittal contains a response to your letter to us dated January 29, 2014. In this letter you listed technical deficiencies that must be addressed before the permit revision application for BNCR-9401 can be approved. Below is a listing of the deficiencies followed by our response:

Section 4.5 Transportation Plan

1. Follow-up to item No. 2: Plate 4.5-1 still shows the road ending at Station 14+00 rather than joining the existing haul road. In addition the label "Minnkota Access Road Plate 4.5-3" should be "Minnkota Access Road Plate 4.5-4. (FSE)

The existing haul road intersection has been better defined on the map to show the two roads meeting up. The stationing of the Minnkota Access Road now starts at 0+00, which corresponds to the profile in Appendix 4.5-4. Additionally, the existing road from the county road has been depicted on the map as a double yellow line and added to the Legend.

The future Haul Road Section E which will be built in 2020 to haul coal from the mining areas in Section 9 of BNCR 1101 is depicted on Plate 4.5-1 Transportation Map. A short explanation of the road has been added to Section 4.5 Transportation Plan.

All planned and proposed roads for BNCR 1101 which are present in the map area have been added to Plate 4.5-1 Transportation Map.

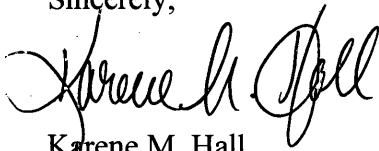
Section 4.14 Reclamation Cost Estimate for Bonding Purposes

2. Please update the narrative in Section 4.14 to indicate that the worst-case condition will occur in 2014, rather than 2013, and update Appendix 4.12.1 using the 2013 variable costs. (FSE)

Paragraph 2 of Section 4.14 has been modified to read 2014 as opposed to 2013. No other changes to the text in Section 4.14 have been made. The variable costs on Page 2 of Appendix 4.14-1 have been updated to those from July of 2013. Those changes are highlighted in yellow. No other changes have been made to Appendix 4.14-1

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact me at the Center office.

Sincerely,



Karene M. Hall
Permit Coordinator