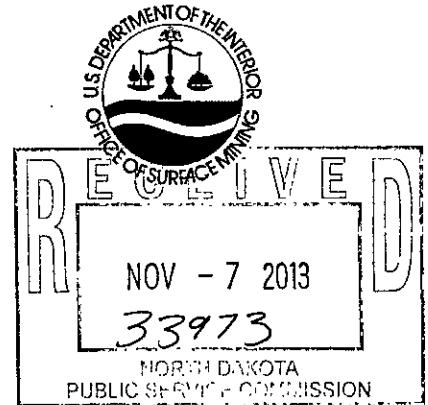




# United States Department of the Interior

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



November 4, 2013

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. 5.

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. 5. The package requests Final bond release for 137.6 acres. This bond release application includes Federal Lands, therefore, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) concurrence is required.

A joint PSC/OSM inspection of this area was conducted on June 25, 2013. 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