



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Western Region Office
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, CO 80202-3050



February 25, 2014

James R. Deutsch, Director
Reclamation Division
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480

RE: Dakota Westmoreland Corporation's Beulah Mine Permit KRSB-8603 Revision 27,
Federal Lease NDM 041765

This letter is in response to your letter dated February 10, 2014, regarding whether or not a mining plan approval or modification is needed for Revision 27. The proposed revision will add to the existing permit approximately 892 acres located in portions of Sections 20, 21, 22 and 23, T143N, R88W, Mercer County, North Dakota of which 390 acres is leased federal coal. Federal coal tracts are location in portions of Sections 20 and 22, T143N, R88W. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Western Region office has determined that the mining plan modification requires approval by the Secretary of the Interior. The proposed revision to the Beulah Mine meets the requirements of 30 CFR 746.18.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eugene (Gene) Hay by telephone or email at 303-293-5036 or ghay@osmre.gov, respectively.

Sincerely,

Elaine Ramsey, Manager
Field Operations Branch