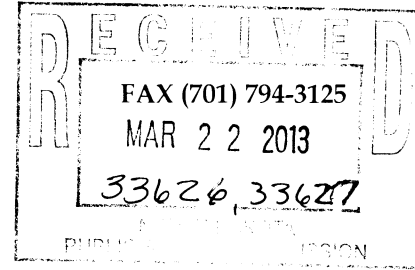


PHONE (701) 794-8734



AN ALLETE COMPANY

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



March 20th, 2013

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

RE: Application for Bond Release #4 to Permit BNCR-9401 and Bond Release #9 to Permit 37.

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

BNI Coal, Ltd. is requesting final bond release for two tracts, one tract (52.09 acres) which is located within Permit BNCR-9401 and one tract (1.78 acres) within Permit 37 at the Center Mine. The proposed tracts are located in Section 5 in T.141 N., R.83 W. (BNCR 9401) and Section 25 in T.142 N., R.83 W., in Oliver County.

All necessary materials are enclosed on the CD for your completeness review. Please let us know after you have completed your review of the public notice. Following your review, we will submit the notice to the newspapers to begin publication. In addition, letters to people, agencies, and governmental bodies that require notification will be sent following your review of the draft letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Jay Volk at the Center Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephanie Paavola".

Stephanie Paavola  
GIS/Environmental Specialist