



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

March 5, 2014

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Bismarck, ND
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Voice 701.530.2000

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

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

This letter is in reference to the review of the Coyote Creek Mine application for Permit NACC-1301, located in Mercer County, North Dakota.

The Soils Report Section 2.5.2 and Prime Farmland Section 2.5.5 have been reviewed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Mixing of prime and nonprime surface layers and subsoil materials has been allowed in the past. NRCS does not oppose this practice, but is concerned with the projected mixing of prime and nonprime subsoil in the disturbance site of the E ½ of the SE ¼, Section 30, T. 143 N., R. 88 W. The area of disturbance contains soils with elevated SAR and EC values and coarser textures than typically allowed in prime farmland.

For this project NRCS does not oppose mixing of prime and nonprime soils that have layers of elevated SAR and EC if the salvage depths do not include these higher SARs and EC layers as stated in Section 2.5.1. The same applies to coarser textured soil layers as referred to in Section 2.5.1. Salvage depths cannot include these sand layers if mixed with prime soil. Soil layers that do not meet the chemical or physical criteria for prime farmland should be segregated from prime farmland materials.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. If you have additional questions, please contact Steve Sieler, Liaison Soil Scientist, NRCS, Bismarck, ND at 701-530-2019.

Sincerely,

MARY E. PODLL
State Conservationist

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