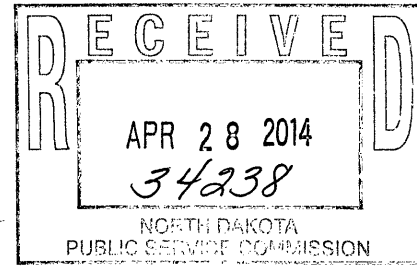




United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

April 23, 2014

PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND
58502-1458
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 Mining Company, L.L.C. application for a Surface Coal Mining Permit NACC-1302, 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). The Soil Survey and Prime Farmland Map, Section 2.5.6, indicates that there are no areas of prime farmland that are planned to be disturbed by mining. Prime farmland will only be affected by associated disturbance. Therefore, NRCS concurs that separate handling of prime soils is not necessary in this permit area and prime farmland reclamation guidelines will not be required.

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

Sincerely,

MARY E. PODOLL
State Conservationist