



RESUME

JAMES R. DEUTSCH
112 East Owens Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501

CURRENT POSITION

Director, Reclamation and Abandoned Mine Land Divisions
North Dakota Public Service Commission

The Reclamation Division administers and enforces North Dakota's reclamation law for minimizing the environmental effects of surface coal mining and to ensure that mined lands are reclaimed to beneficial and productive uses following mining. The Abandoned Mine Land Division carries out projects to eliminate safety hazards and reduce adverse environmental impacts associated with abandoned surface and underground coal mines that were mined before the enactment of the federal reclamation law. These programs are based on federal law and have been approved by the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) within the Department of the Interior.

EXPERIENCE **September 1, 2006 to present – Director of the Reclamation and Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Divisions**

- Plan and direct the activities of the Reclamation and AML Divisions.
- Ensure that the divisions' responsibilities and activities are carried out following applicable laws, rules and policies.
- Manage the coal mine permitting functions which include conducting a general review of new applications, make staff assignments, advise staff, review draft letters, and prepare written findings and final approval documents for Commission action.
- Ensure that the required notices for new applications are provided to landowners, government agencies and the public.
- Direct and manage staff review and analysis of baseline environmental information and mining and reclamation plans in permit applications to ensure all environmental and reclamation standards are met. These include analyzing the various interactions and potential impacts of mining on pre-mine environmental resources that include surface and ground water, topography, geology, soils, vegetation, fish and wildlife, cultural resources and land use.
- Ensure that performance bonds are sufficient to cover the cost of reclaiming the land.
- Prepare written findings for new mining permits and significant revisions to verify the proposed mining and reclamation comply with the environmental protection and reclamation standards.
- Ensure that mining companies carry out mining in compliance with required performance standards and that required hydrologic and wildlife monitoring is conducted.
- Direct and manage staff review and analysis of vegetation data that is collected from reclaimed lands by mining companies to demonstrate reclamation success as part of bond release applications.
- Recommend and draft law, rule and policies changes and make comments on proposed changes to federal rules and policies.
- Manage the selection of yearly AML reclamation projects, soliciting of bids, and award of contracts in a manner that best utilizes the available funds.
- Work with staff to solve any administrative, design, technical, and field problems related to AML projects.
- Serve as the primary contact person with OSM for annual reviews of the coal regulatory and AML programs and any issues that may arise.

- Oversee the preparation of documents that are used for OSM to satisfy requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for AML projects and permit applications that propose mining coal owned by the federal government.
- Prepare biennial budgets for the Reclamation and AML divisions and monitor expenditures during the biennium and federal grant periods.
- Prepare grant applications to obtain the federal funds that are needed for the coal regulatory and AML programs and submit related reports as required.
- Draft and present legislative testimony on matters that affect the Reclamation and AML divisions.
- Represent the Reclamation and AML divisions at meetings with federal and state agencies, local authorities, mining companies, and the public.
- Respond to inquiries from mining companies, contractors, state and federal agencies, landowners, media, and the public about the Reclamation and AML programs.
- Manage and supervise the work of a multi-disciplined staff that includes twelve natural resource scientists and engineers.

January 1, 1997 to August 31, 2006 – Director of the Reclamation Division

- Duties were similar to those described above, but were limited to directing and overseeing the activities of the Commission's Reclamation Division (I did not assume the additional duties as director of the AML Division until September 1, 2006).
- Supervised a multi-disciplined staff that included seven natural resource scientists and engineers.

December 1, 1987 to December 31, 1996 – Assistant Director of the Reclamation Division

Responsibilities included managing the mine permitting and inspection and enforcement activities; reviewed permit and bond release applications; supervised environmental scientists and engineers with various technical backgrounds; drafted administrative and technical policies; recommended law and rule changes; assisted with the preparation of state biennial budgets and federal grant applications; and had frequent contacts with representatives from the coal industry, landowners, environmental groups, and the public on program matters.

July 1, 1974 to November 30, 1987 – Environmental Scientist and Reclamation Inspector with the Reclamation Division

Responsibilities included conducting and coordinating technical reviews of mining permit applications, including data and reports on the baseline environmental resources (soils, vegetation, land use, cultural resources, wildlife, etc.) and carried out mine inspection to ensure mining companies were complying with the State's reclamation laws and rules. Member of the team that drafted new State laws, rules and policies following enactment of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 and prepared comments on proposed federal regulations. Also assisted with implementing significant changes to the State's reclamation law in the mid 1970's before the federal reclamation law was enacted.

OTHER Maintain an interest and involvement with the family farm near Plaza, ND.

EDUCATION B.S. degree in Soil Science received from North Dakota State University in May 1974 - G.P.A. 3.78.

Attended numerous technical training courses and forums while employed with the Commission. Topics have included hydrology, land use, wetlands, vegetation, performance bonding, federal grants, communications and management.