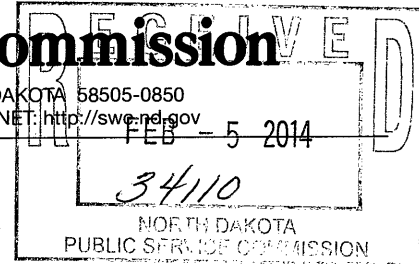


North Dakota State Water Commission

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WATER APPROPRIATION DIVISION
(701) 328-2754

February 5, 2014

Mr. James R. Deutsch, Director
Reclamation Division (VIA INSIDE MAIL)
Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

In a January 16, 2014 letter, you requested comments from the State Water Commission staff regarding Falkirk Mining Company's proposed Revision No. 24 to Surface Coal Mining Permit NAFK-9503. The permit covers the Riverdale mine area, located between the Weller Coulee to the north and the Missouri River to the south and west. The revision to the permit updates, among other things, the groundwater hydrology section, surface water management plans, and reclamation and monitoring plans.

With respect to groundwater and wells, major changes in the proposed Revision No. 24 include the plugging of six monitoring wells due to mining or road construction activity and the plugging and replacement of two monitoring wells in July and November 2012, respectively. Four of the six plugged wells are scheduled for replacement.

The revisions proposed in Revision No. 24 with regards to the groundwater hydrology and groundwater monitoring plans are satisfactory to this reviewer.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Morin
Hydrologist

JM:jk/1687.11

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Comments received from the State Water Commission
State Water Commission
Jennifer Morin