



Public Service Commission

State of North Dakota

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October 7, 2015

Mr. Troy Leingang
Environmental Manager
Coteau Properties Company
204 County Rd. 15
Beulah, ND 58523

Dear Mr. Leingang:

The Reclamation Division has completed its review of the latest submittal of Revision 27 to Surface Coal Mining Permit NACT-0401. This revision updates the Consolidated Bonding Plan and the worst-case reclamation cost estimate for the Freedom Mine. The following items need to be addressed prior to approval of this revision and Revision 18 to Permit NACT-0201.

1. We noted that the areas requiring topsoil and subsoil respread as depicted on Sections C-3 and C-4 generally extend approximately 2 to 2½ years beyond the worst case pit (approximately to the end of the 2021 pit sequence) for most of the pit sequences with the exception of the Mine Area 3 pit sequence where it only extends about 1 year beyond the worst case pit. In the past, we are aware that SPGM removal is generally well ahead of the advancing pit sequences at the Freedom Mine. In light of this past practice and what is being shown for the other areas, please justify the shorter advanced SPGM removal distance ahead of the worst case pit in Mine Area 3 or make the appropriate adjustments. (FSE)
2. To be consistent with Section C-4 (acreage figures provided for areas requiring subsoil respread), please provide the acreages of the areas requiring topsoil respread on Section C-3. (FSE)
3. In Section B-4, please correct the hours for "Truck-777F (Hours)" in the Overburden stockpiles row (currently 80,050) to match the hours listed in Section B-3 (80,127). (FSE)

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

James R. Deutsch
Director
Reclamation Division

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