

THE COTEAU
PROPERTIES COMPANY
A SUBSIDIARY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COAL CORPORATION

FREEDOM MINE

204 County Road 15
Beulah, North Dakota 58523-9475

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OCT - 8 2015

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NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

October 8, 2015

Mr. James R. Deutsch
Director Reclamation Division
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

Enclosed are three DVD's containing the revised Consolidated Bonding Plan, which is attached to Revision 27 to Permit NACT-0401. Responses below refer to deficiencies in your October 7, 2015 letter:

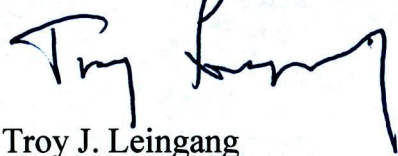
1. See revised Section A-2. Mine Area 3 only had one year of SPGM stripping in front of the worst case pit because at this point it is still in the initial development stages, secondly it is lower cover coal which requires minimal pre-benching operation, and thirdly the pit configuration differs from MA1 and the EMA. Pits are short and wide allowing more room for the pre-bench operation which is driven by the pit sequence within the year rather than the year itself. As the pits advance, narrow and lengthen and as the cover becomes deeper, SPGM stripping will be extended out farther in front of the worst case pits similar to that in MA1 and EMA. However, at this time we do not feel that 2 years of stripping is required in this area.
2. See revised Section C-3. Acreages were shown on the map however the color did not allow them to be readily seen on the PDF. The color was updated to make these values more discernable.
3. See revised Sections B-4 and B-1.

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If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

THE COTEAU PROPERTIES COMPANY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Leingang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Troy" and last name "Leingang" clearly distinguishable.

Troy J. Leingang
Environmental Manager

AJH
Enc.

cc: Shana Brost, Mercer County Auditor (w/enc.)