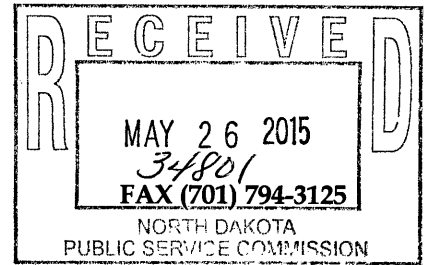


PHONE (701) 794-8734



AN ALLETE COMPANY  
2360 35<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE SW CENTER, ND 58530-9499  
MINING LIGNITE AT THE CENTER MINE SINCE 1970

May 22, 2015

Mr. Jim Deutsch, Director  
Reclamation Division, NDPSC  
Department 408  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Bond Release 8 to Permit BNCR-8106

Dear Mr. Deutsch,

This submittal contains a response to your letter to us dated May 14, 2015. In this letter you listed technical deficiencies that must be addressed before the bond release application for Permit BNCR-8106 can be published. Below is a listing of the deficiencies followed by our response:

**Public Notice**

1. Follow-ups to items No. 6 and 11: Please revise the following sentences in the public notice for clarity: (ZAB)
  - a. *"No monetary release is requested for Permit BNCR-8106 since the bond amount is based on the worst-case reclamation condition that covers this permit at the Center Mine. The total bond amount for the consolidated bond area that includes Permits BNCR-8106, BNCR-9702, BNCR-8202 and BNCR-8602. The current bond amount is \$34,139,439.00."*
  - b. *The post mine land uses for this tract consist of 53.05 acres of tame pasture and 5.18 acres right of way which that includes 1.46 acres of undisturbed land, and a portion of the reclaimed county road (37th Ave. SW). No mining disturbance occurred on 1.46 acres along the southern boundary of the tract. (Undisturbed is not a land use and the undisturbed 1.46 acres appears to have ROW and tame pasture as post mine land uses.)*
  - c. *"Copies of the bond release requests and supporting documents...."*

*Items a. through c. have been addressed as suggested.*

## Map

2. Please remove the gray line that was added beneath the solid black dot inside the bond release tract. The gray line appears similar to the line used for public roads on the map. (ZAB)

*The gray line appearing under the black dot has been removed.*

## Addresses for Notice Letters

3. Follow-up to item No. 13: Mike Dresser is listed as a surface owner to be notified of the bond release. BNI mentioned in a meeting last fall that Brian Dresser took over the family farm and Dresser's requested that Brian be included in any notifications. If this is the case, please add Brian to the surface owner list and provide an address. (ZAB)

*Mike Dresser is a remainderman on a Life Estate that is still active. Therefore, he is not a surface owner at this time and he has not been added to the list of surface owners. Brian Dresser's name and address has been added to the list of surface owners as an additional contact.*

4. Follow-up to item No. 13: Please add Michelle Ternes to the list of contiguous surface owners and provide her address. (ZAB)

*Michelle Ternes is a remainderman on a Life Estate that is still active. Therefore, she is not a surface owner at this time and she has not been added to the list of contiguous owners.*

## Notice Letters

5. Follow-up to item No. 14: Please revise the letters in Attachment IV to incorporate all of the appropriate changes that have been requested for the newspaper advertisement narrative. (ZAB)

*The Notification Letter has been revised to incorporate the changes made to the newspaper publication narrative.*

6. Follow-up to item No. 15: Retain the reference line on the sample notification letter for government agencies as *Final Bond Release BNCR-8106* or revise to *Notification to of Final Bond Release BNCR-8106*. The reference line for surface/adjoining owners should be revised similar to: *Notification to Surface Owner to of Final Bond Release BNCR-8106* and *Notification to Adjoining Surface Owner to of Final Bond Release to Permit BNCR-8106*. (WTG/ZAB)

*The reference line has been revised to state "Notification of Final Bond Release BNCR 8106". This will eliminate the need for separate letters to be drafted for surface owners, contiguous owners and government agencies.*

7. In addition to the government agency sample notification letter, please provide one sample notification letter for surface owners and one for adjoining surface owners in the bond release application. (ZAB)

*See response to item number 6.*

Additionally, the following item has been revised and updated in this current submittal.

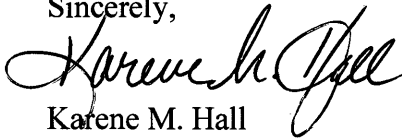
**Attachment V – Soils Map**

1. Follow-up to Item No. 21: Please revise the Soils Map to clearly depict the right-of-way, stockponds and 18.11 acres of undisturbed lands that were not included in development of the standard so reviewers can determine why the tame pastureland standard is based on 470.4 acres of native grassland rather than the total pre-mine of native grassland, 484.39 acres. (GAW)

*The Soils Map has been updated as requested.*

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact me at the Center office.

Sincerely,



Karene M. Hall  
Permit Coordinator