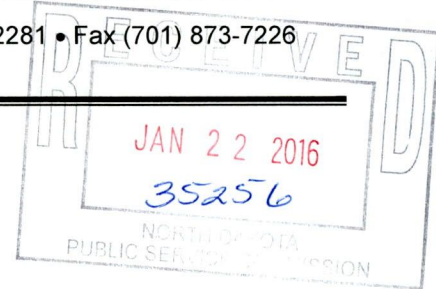


THE COTEAU
PROPERTIES COMPANY
A SUBSIDIARY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COAL CORPORATION

FREEDOM MINE
204 County Road 15
Beulah, North Dakota 58523-9475
(701) 873-2281 • Fax (701) 873-7226



January 21, 2016

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 DVDs containing revised Final Bond Release #4 to Permit NACT-8503. Responses below refer to deficiencies in your letter dated December 29, 2015.

1. Requested changes were made to Attachment VII.
2. Requested changes were made to Attachment VII.
3. Requested changes were made to Attachment VII.
4. Requested changes were made to Attachment VII. Land use and soil depths were added to Attachment VI.
5. Requested changes were made to Attachment VII.
6. Requested changes were made to Attachment VII.
7. Dakota Gasification Company's project is described in Attachment VII, and construction began in 2015 and continues to move forward. It is not necessary to include detailed construction plans for the purposes of this bond release. No additional plans have been included.
8. Requested changes were made to Attachment VII.

The plugged culvert located on the north side of the ditch block and adjacent to the east side of the bond release tract has been cleaned as noted during the November 17, 2015 bond release inspection. Within days of the inspection, Coteau uncovered both ends of the plugged culvert and removed as much material as possible from the inside of the culvert with the vacuum truck. Due to weather conditions, the culvert was unable to be flushed at this time, but is planned to be completed spring 2016 with the water truck. Even with the culvert plugged, previous runoff events have not over flowed the ditch block nor the haulroad; however, as previously stated, the culvert will be flushed as conditions allow.

Mr. James R. Deutsch
January 21, 2016
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If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Unruh or me.

Sincerely,

THE COTEAU PROPERTIES COMPANY

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Troy Leingang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Troy J. Leingang
Environmental Manager

AJH
Enc.

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