



# North Dakota State Water Commission

900 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE, DEPT 770 • BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505-0850  
701-328-2750 • TDD 701-328-2750 • FAX 701-328-3696 • INTERNET: <http://swc.nd.gov>



WATER APPROPRIATION DIVISION  
(701) 328-2754

January 19, 2016

Mr. James R. Deutsch, Director, Reclamation Division  
Public Service Commission (via INSIDE MAIL)  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

In a December 30, 2015 letter, you requested a review of Falkirk Mining Company's proposed Revision Number 27 and Renewal Number 4 to Surface Coal Mining Permit NAFK-9503 by the State Engineer. The permit covers the Riverdale Coal Field, located between the Weller Coulee to the north and the Missouri River to the south and west. The revision to the permit updates the groundwater hydrology section among other things. Renewal Number 4 will extend the coal mining and reclamation operations under this permit to April 17, 2021.

With respect to groundwater and wells, the revision includes the addition of four monitoring wells, which are located about a half mile west of the 2014 mined portion of the Riverdale Coal Field, to the groundwater-monitoring plan. The inclusion of these wells compelled updates to associated maps, figures, tables, and well drillers' reports. The revision also includes updates to the figures showing certified and operational private wells.

The revision list specifies updates to potentiometric surface maps in Section 2.2.25, though it is unclear how these maps were changed, as they reportedly show the potentiometric surface in December 2009 and do not include data from the new wells. If potentiometric surface maps for more recent water level measurements were created, they were not included.

The modifications proposed in Revision Number 27 and Renewal Number 4 with regards to groundwater hydrology are satisfactory to this reviewer.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Weier  
Hydrologist Manager

JW:js/1687.13

7 RC-15-756 Filed 01/20/2016 Pages: 1  
Comments received from the State Water Commission  
Water Commission  
Jennifer Weier

7 RC-15-755 Filed 01/20/2016 Pages: 1  
Comments received from the State Water Commission  
Water Commission  
Jennifer Weier